



Daily Report

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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Information Ministers' Conference Begins

JN0511151089 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Muhammad al-Rawwas today inaugurated at the Al-Bustan Palace Hotel the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] information ministers' conference.

At the beginning of the meeting, his excellency delivered a speech in which he conveyed His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id's greetings and best wishes of success for the conference. His excellency also welcomed their excellencies the ministers. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

GCC 33d Ministerial Council Session Starts

JN0611193089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1724 GMT
6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] Muscat, 6 Nov (WAKH)—In Muscat this evening, foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states began meetings of the 33d session of the GCC Ministerial Council to prepare for the 10th GCC summit. [passage omitted]

Second Session Ends; Minister Comments

JN0711152889 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states will hold their third session in Muscat later this evening to discuss the economic topics listed on the agenda of the preparatory conference of the 10th summit of the GCC states' leaders.

The GCC states' foreign ministers ended their second session at the al-Bustan Palace Hotel at noon today. At the end of the session, His Excellency Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, said that the ministers reviewed all political issues and military cooperation. He added that views were exchanged on the situation in the region, the development of negotiations between Iraq and Iran, and the Lebanese question. He said that the foreign ministers' views on these issues were identical in anticipation of the GCC leader's summit conference.

In a statement to reporters, the minister of state for foreign affairs also said that the ministers had agreed to prepare an agenda for the GCC states to discuss regional problems, the Lebanese crisis, the Palestine question, and developments in the Palestinian intifadah.

ACC Officials Sign Cooperation Planning Agreement

JN0611130089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Nov 89 p 3

[Text] Baghdad (Petra)—Undersecretaries of ministries of planning in the four-member Arab Cooperation

Council (ACC) countries reached an agreement here Sunday [5 November] on cooperation in planning affairs.

A statement issued after three days of meetings here said that the officials from Iraq, Jordan, Egypt and North Yemen had signed draft agreement to work out a joint long-term development strategy.

The strategy will constitute a general framework for planning in the four ACC states and will identify priorities for projects in various sectors, the statement said.

It said the four countries agreed that through the strategy they should coordinate short, medium, and long-term development plans and benefit from each other's experience in a manner that would best serve the socioeconomic integration process.

Representatives of ministries of labour of the ACC countries have announced the formation of a technical committee entrusted with unifying working papers and recommendations which would be announced at the closing session of a meeting here Monday.

Several working papers were presented by each country dealing with manpower training.

Palestinian Affairs

Leadership Meeting on Reply to Baker Plan

JN0811154889 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
7 Nov 89 p 23

[By 'Amid al-Shanti]

[Text] Salah Khalaf, alias Abu-Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee, has announced that the Palestinian leadership will hold a very important meeting today, Tuesday, to discuss U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's initiative and to hear Washington's answer to the questions raised by the PLO with regard to the U.S. secretary's plan. In a telephone conversation, Abu-Iyad in Tunis said he did not want to anticipate events now while waiting for the U.S. reply, which is expected today—now "yesterday." The questions, he said, are related to the Baker plan. Abu-Iyad added that our position is clear and we do not deviate from our principles. He said that we will give a final answer today after the meetings to deal with the U.S. initiative.

Abu-Iyad hailed the intifadah in the occupied territories. He said that the intifadah will continue and that we will not be frightened by all the Nazi and bestial Zionist acts against this heroic people. We will continue until we achieve the objective of establishing our independent state on Palestinian soil.

Abu-Iyad called on the Arabs to give more support to the intifadah. He said that the PLO has adopted many new measures to continue the intifadah and to support action both inside and outside because there is no difference between those inside and outside the occupied territories.

PLO Sets Seven Points for Dialogue With Israel*JN0711203889 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic*
6 Nov 89 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] At the end of its first meeting in Cairo in 12 years, the PLO Executive Committee defined seven points for Washington to clarify concerning U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposals and the efforts to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. This came after the Executive Committee's discussions, under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, on Baker's plan and its amendments. The Executive Committee ended its work early yesterday morning.

Before the meeting, Ambassador 'Amr Musa, director of the international organizations department at the Foreign Ministry, met with the Palestinian delegation at the Palestinian president's residence at the al-'Urubah Palace.

A reliable Palestinian source told AL-AHRAM correspondent Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi that the seven points sent to the United States are:

1. Approval of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a preliminary step toward convening an international peace conference to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states and all parties involved, including the PLO .
2. The dialogue must be open, with no preconditions, and the PLO has the unrestricted right to form a Palestinian delegation.
3. The United States must commit itself to the proposition that the dialogue and elections are only the first stage in an overall peace settlement that is aimed at establishing a lasting and just peace that allows all sides to live within secure borders.
4. Israel must commit itself to the four U.S. principles for a settlement in the Middle East, namely; Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, guaranteeing security for all states in the region, recognizing the Palestinian people's inalienable political rights, and acceptance of the principle of exchanging land for peace.
5. Shamir's plan must not be the basis for starting the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.
6. Following the elections, an international conference must be called and the role of the dialogue as a preliminary step should end.
7. The PLO must be a participant at all stages of the peace process.

The meeting was attended by the following 12 [as published] Executive Committee members: Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh; Jamal al-Surani; 'Abdallah Hurani; Mahmud Darwish;

Sulayman al-Najjab; Muhammad Milhim; 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya; 'Abd-al-Rahim Ahmad; and Bishop Iliya Khuri, in addition to President Yassir 'Arafat. [passage omitted]

Faysal al-Husayni on Palestinian Delegation Issue*JN0611202289 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic*
5 Nov 89 pp 1, 22

[Excerpt] Occupied territory, agencies—Jewish settlers committed a massacre in the city of Hebron yesterday by throwing a bomb at a house and wounding nine members of one family, four of them seriously. Citizens staged violent demonstrations in the city to protest the incident. The occupation forces imposed a state of siege on Alia Hospital and declared the city a closed military zone. As a result, violent clashes occurred in the city of Nablus yesterday, and one youth was wounded following the lifting of the curfew which was imposed last Friday.

Regarding political developments, the PLO Executive Committee began its first meeting in Cairo in 12 years to discuss U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan, which was rejected by West Bank figures in their statements to AL-WATAN.

Answering a question by AL-WATAN, Faysal al-Husayni, director of the East Jerusalem Institute of Arab Studies, said: Let us first define what we want as Palestinians or what we approve. We want to push the wheels toward an international conference. Therefore, we are ready to start preparatory talks. In light of this, the topics to be discussed should not conflict with the possibility of convening an international conference. In other words, the topics of discussion or argument should not be restricted.

He continued: I believe that all current plans and discussions center on two points: First, Israel and the United States want the talks to focus on Shamir's plan; second, the issue of the Palestinian delegation and its components. Israel says that the delegation should be made up of elements only from the occupied territories and should be acceptable to it, while the Palestinian side insists that the PLO form the delegation because no other side has a right to interfere in this issue.

These are the two main subjects around which current activities center. All U.S. and Israeli efforts are aimed at lessening the PLO's role and harming the independent Palestinian position. This makes it incumbent on the PLO to concentrate on the independent Palestinian position and the need for the Palestinian delegation to enter the preparatory negotiations or the talks on an equal footing with the other sides. We also should stress that the Palestinian delegation should represent Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories to protect the basic principle of a comprehensive Palestinian representation. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Others Interviewed on Dialogue

OW0411204489 Beijing XINHUA in English
0137 GMT 4 Nov 89

[By Gao Qiufu and Yu Dabo]

[Text] Cairo, November 3 (XINHUA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat said here today that the holding of the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue depends on "how Israel behaves and whether it reacts positively to the PLO's peace initiative."

In an exclusive interview with XINHUA at a gathering sponsored by the Afro-Asian Writers' Association this evening, 'Arafat said the Palestinians in the occupied territories will intensify their 22-month-old uprising if the Israeli authorities do not change their repressive policy.

'Arafat attended the gathering and chatted with those around him. When spotting the XINHUA correspondents in the crowd, he approached and said, "Ni hao" ("how do you do" in Chinese) and shook hands with them.

When asked about the modifications made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his five-point plan for Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, 'Arafat said the PLO had not taken a final stand on the matter and "discussions are still underway."

'Arafat made the remarks on the eve of a PLO Executive Committee meeting that begins later tonight. It is the first meeting held by the committee in Cairo in 12 years since Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The president said the meeting would discuss the Palestinian issue as a whole and coordinate positions on the Mideast issue, including the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

'Arafat ruled out the possibility that the meeting would decide on the list of Palestinian representatives for talks with Israel.

Also interviewed today by XINHUA were Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO chief representative to the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, and Sa'id Kamal, ambassador of the Palestinian state to Cairo.

Referring to the stalemated U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, 'Abd-Rabbuh said, "Nothing has been decided" on whether the fifth round of the dialogue would be held. He declined to elaborate.

The PLO and the United States have held four rounds of talks, with the latest in August 14.

'Abd-Rabbuh attributed the impasse in the dialogue to the U.S. negative attitude toward the Mideast peace process, saying the U.S. Administration adopts its policy in the interests of the Israeli Government. He described Baker's modified peace plan as "nothing" but a ploy to serve the Israeli interests.

The modifications of Baker's plan include a promise that known members of the PLO will be banned from the future Palestinian-Israeli talks but leave open the possibility of indirect participation by the PLO.

Kamal said Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's "political philosophy" is to refuse to recognize the PLO and to give up land for peace. Kamal said he sees no signs that Israel would be flexible in changing its hardline policy to comply with the peace trend in the Middle East.

PLO's 'Abbas Briefs Jordanians on Peace Efforts

JN0311202089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT
3 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas has briefed Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the Palestine question and on efforts to advance the peace process in the region.

A responsible Palestinian source here said that 'Abbas, who arrived in Amman yesterday, briefed the Jordanian officials on the results of the PLO Central Council's meetings in Baghdad in mid-October.

The source said that the Palestinian official will leave Amman tomorrow for Cairo to attend the PLO Executive Committee's meetings, which will be held there on Saturday [4 November]

PLO's Qaddumi on Palestinian-Jordanian Ties

JN0511202189 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
4 Nov 89 p 14

[Fathi al-Barqawi dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi has stressed the importance of supporting Palestinian-Jordanian relations and coordination between Jordan and the PLO, especially at this stage. He said the PLO trusts neither the intentions of the United States nor its role as exclusive mediator as long as it announces its bias toward Israel.

The statements were made in a meeting Qaddumi held yesterday with the correspondents of the Arab news agencies and AL-BAYAN in Tunis. Qaddumi reviewed aspects of the Palestinian peace initiative, the Palestine question, the PLO's position on proposals concerning elections in the occupied territories, and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Qaddumi supported King Husayn of Jordan's statements on the need for avoiding dependence on the big powers and on international detente as the only factor in the political solution. Local factors, especially a strong Arab and Palestinian position against Israel's practices, are more important in finding a peaceful settlement, he said.

He stressed the importance of coordination between Jordan and the PLO at this stage. In the past, he said, I

used to object to this coordination, but it is now necessary after the disengagement [of Jordan's ties with the West Bank], especially since Jordan's stance toward the settlement is the closest to that of the PLO.

Qaddumi said that the opening of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue was a positive step. We found in the dialogue a narrow door through which we could reach U.S. public opinion and change its misconceptions about the Palestinian rights and its outlook to the PLO as a terrorist organization, Qaddumi said. This dialogue, however, has not yet reached tangible results, he added.

Asked about the idea of elections on which the United States insists, Qaddumi wondered: Why this insistence on holding elections? What will the capacity of the elected people be? And is the purpose to find an alternative to the PLO? They suggested, he said, that the issue has to do with democracy, forgetting that the Palestinian leaders who were elected in 1976 inside the occupied territories were subjected to assassinations, detention, and expulsion by the Israelis.

If the aim is to hold complementary elections to elect members for the Palestine National Council from within the occupied territories, then the PLO welcomes this. The question is that of an occupation, he said, and the solution needs a declaration of principles making it clear that the elections will be an item in the settlement.

He said that if the United States is serious in its efforts and wants to create the appropriate atmosphere for Palestinian-Israeli meetings to find a just solution, then the required is not a dialogue but negotiations through an international conference with the attendance of the Security Council five permanent member states.

Qaddumi stressed that the PLO is the party that has the say concerning the formation of the Palestinian delegation to any negotiations. He who wants discussions, he said, should not impose one topic on the meeting; all issues should be open for discussion. And to avoid suspicions, the five Security Council permanent member states, not just two states, should attend.

Formation of Arab Committee Postponed

JN0411164089 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
2 Nov 89 p 30

[From Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] A responsible Palestinian source has said that the Moroccan king prefers that the formation of the Arab committee on the Palestinian issue be postponed until further notice. A decision to form this committee was made by the latest Arab summit in Casablanca.

The summit resolution stipulated that the Moroccan king would form an Arab foreign ministers committee which would visit world capitals to explain the conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory and the Israeli occupation authorities' acts of repression there. The source noted that despite the passage of 5 months since the summit recommendation was made,

the Moroccan king prefers to postpone this issue until plans proposed in this connection by various sides bear fruit, such as the Egyptian 10-point plan, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan, and enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan.

The Palestinian source explained that Palestinians, including Yasir 'Arafat, had discussed this issue with King Hassan II, who, while expressing his readiness to do his utmost to form this committee in consultation with President 'Arafat, voiced doubts as to the feasibility of this move at present, preferring to defer to current contacts.

The Palestinian source did not conceal his own doubts concerning the formation of this committee as stipulated at the Casablanca Arab summit, contending that it would be difficult to form a committee of seven or more foreign ministers that could pay collective visits to world capitals.

Abu-Iyad Confirms Stance on Dialogue With Israel

PM0611122289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 3 Nov 89 p 2

[Zaki Shihab report: "Abu-Iyad Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Support Dialogue With Israel With Open Agenda; No Duties Assigned to Central Committee Members"]

[Text] London—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf has stated that the PLO supports an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, provided it is held with an open agenda and in the presence of influential international parties, to pave the way to an international conference.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Salah Khalaf said that the PLO's position on U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan has not been determined yet, pending answers to queries that the PLO intends to make when that plan or initiative is submitted to it officially.

Fatah's second-in-command said that the matter has been submitted by the Americans to the Israelis but not to the PLO.

The Palestinian official said that the Palestinian leadership constantly coordinates and consults with the Egyptian leadership on all issues—particularly those related to the peace process.

Salah Khalaf confirmed the position taken by the Palestine Central Council in Baghdad on the question of dialogue with Israel.

He also revealed that the movement's revolutionary council will meet next month to discuss new developments at the Palestinian level, particularly the political situation inside and outside [the occupied territory] and ways of escalating the people's intifadah in the occupied territory.

Khalaf denied that the movement's central committee assigned duties to its members at its meeting in Tunis a few days ago. He said that the original duties were still the same. He said that he expected the appointment of three central committee members [in addition to the elected central committee members] to take place at the next session.

With regard to the occupied territory intifadah entering its 3d year, he said: The most important thing for the Palestinian leadership is the continuation of the intifadah and its development to a more advanced stage that will later lead to civil disobedience.

Aby-Iyad cited the Bayt Sahur steadfastness against the occupation as an example of the ability of the Palestinian will to challenge and defeat occupation. What happened in that heroic town, he said, is an example to be followed throughout our Palestinian territory.

He said that there is nothing new in the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue so far. He added: The Americans should develop their position to enable the peace efforts to move forward.

With regard to recent events in Sidon, particularly the assassinations in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Salah Khalaf said: We of the Palestinian leadership are against any kind of assassination, which we consider a major crime that leads to infighting and diverts guns from their real targets.

He described recent events within the Abu-Nidal movement as an internal corrective move carried out by some members of the political bureau. As a movement, he said, we do not interfere in such matters in any way, and all we want is that there be no crimes causing loss of life and damaging the image of the Palestinian struggle in the occupied territory.

He expressed support for the Lebanese deputies' achievement in al-Ta'if. He added: We hope that all parties will make good use of the encouraging Arab and international atmosphere in reaching a solution, because the alternative is violence, fighting, and hatred. Abu-Iyad said that there was now a unique opportunity which must be exploited. We hope, he said, that all parties will facilitate the work of the Arab tripartite committee and that people with vested interests will forego them for the sake of the entire Lebanese people and for the sake of Lebanon, its unity, and its independence.

Answering another question, Khalaf said that the PLO has not yet adopted a position on the question of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's visit to New York. He added: This topic and the possible positive results of such a visit, if it were to take place, are still being examined.

'Abbas Hails Arab Front in Support of Intifadah

JN0711125289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Beirut, 7 Nov (INA)—Muhammad 'Abbas, also known as Abu-al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front, has expressed his optimism that the popular Arab front in support of the intifadah will give a big additional impetus to the Palestinian people's struggle.

Speaking to the INA correspondent in Beirut, Abu-al-'Abbas said the front, which was formed with the initiative of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, marks the beginning of the age of true confrontation of the dangers threatening Arab security.

This new age of pan-Arab awareness, he added, marks the end of the period of divisions and the absence of Arab popular power.

Abu-al-'Abbas pointed out that Iraq's victory in its defensive war against Iranian aggression, in addition to the Palestinian intifadah, has opened a new phase in the life of the Arab people. He said the front's formation and program will enable the heroes of Palestine in the occupied territory to continue their struggle with the support of all the Arabs in the phase following the restoration and reconstruction of al-Faw.

Abu-al-'Abbas concluded his statement by affirming that Iraq's pan-Arab initiative in setting up this supporting front is an extension of its pan-Arab stands in support of the masses in occupied Palestine and big political and military support to Palestinian struggle despite the war circumstances it has experienced.

PLO's Kamal on Gaza Delegation's Visit to Cairo

NC0511131189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT
5 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal has stated that the visit by a delegation of notables from the Gaza Strip to Cairo in the next few days comes within the framework of discussing the interests of the strip's inhabitants with the Egyptian military governor of the strip.

Kamal said this to MENA in reaction to a report broadcast by Israeli radio that said As'ad Saftawi, Zakariya al-Agha, Mansur al-Shawwa, and Ahmad al-Yaziji will leave for Cairo in the next few days for talks with Egyptian officials on the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the talks with Israel.

The Palestinian ambassador said that several Palestinian figures from the occupied Gaza Strip arrived in Cairo to discuss with Egyptian officials the provisions for the strip's residents, such as admissions to universities and social and living issues. These visits have nothing to do with what is going on regarding the Palestinian delegation and its formation.

Kamal stressed that the PLO is the only group concerned with forming the Palestinian delegation in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, MENA has learned that Sa'id Kana'n, a notable from Nabulus on a private visit to Egypt, will leave Cairo tomorrow on his way back to the West Bank.

Envoy to Riyadh Denies Criticizing Egypt's Role

*PM0611120489 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 2 Nov 89 pp 1-2*

[Hasin al-Bunyan report: "Al-Natshah Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Story Behind Statements That Stirred Up Political Storm With Cairo"]

[Excerpts] Riyadh, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Rafiq Shakir al-Natshah, the Palestinian State's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the story behind the statements attributed to him concerning his low opinion of Egypt's stances on the Palestinian issue at the Islamic Conference Organization information ministers' first meeting in Jeddah 21 October. [passage omitted]

With regard to those who attributed the remarks to him, Al-Natshah told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: May God forgive them. They attributed to me statements that I never made, either at the committee's meeting in Jeddah or to any media organ—statements that could have harmed the staunch relations between the PLO and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

He added: At the ministerial committee meeting in Jeddah I was asked whether I wished to address the opening session, but since I was asked to attend the meeting only an hour before it started, there was not enough time to prepare a speech, so I had to improvise one, and it was acclaimed, appreciated, and praised by the participants, including the Egyptian delegation. [passage omitted]

Al-Natshah added: I was surprised when the brothers at the Palestinian state's embassy in Cairo contacted me to inquire about what happened. They told me that a report was referred to the Egyptian president concerning my low opinion of Egypt's role. So I sent them the full text of the speech, which they in turn referred to the Egyptian president, who was dissatisfied with the report. When he read the speech and understood its substance he was surprised that he had received an inaccurate report that conflicted with the truth. I am also surprised that Brother Khalid al-Hasan hastily—and before he could ascertain the truth—made statements that I had threatened Egypt and harmed Palestinian-Egyptian relations. [passage omitted]

Fatah-The Uprising Opens Conference in Damascus

*JN0611085289 Damascus Domestic Service
in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Nov 89*

[Text] The Fifth General Congress of Fatah-The Uprising Movement opened this morning at one of the Movement's military camps, and will last for 4 days. The congress was attended by a number of comrade members of the Ba'th Party National Command; comrade Dr Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; a number of the members of the Central Command of the National Progressive Front; Khalid al-Fahum, [former] speaker of the Palestine National Council and head of the Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF]; Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Provisional Command of Fatah-the Uprising; some members of the PLO Executive Committee; a number of leaders of the Palestinian revolution factions and the PNSF; the chief of staff of the Palestine Liberation Army; a number of representatives of the Lebanese national movement and the Arab and world liberation movements; some representatives of the Arab and foreign embassies; and a crowd of guests.

Comrade Dr Tawfiq Salihah delivered the speech for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in which he conveyed the greetings and appreciation of the leader of our people's march and the symbol of our strength, comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic over the success of this conference. Comrade Salihah affirmed that the militant cohesion among the PNSF, the Lebanese national forces, and revolutionary Syria constitutes a solid basis for continuing struggle against the Zionist enemy and those who are dealing with it.

Comrade Salihah added: Our party's top priority throughout its historic struggle is the liberation of Palestine and the achievement of the Arab masses' goal of unity, liberation, and socialism. He added that the Palestine question will remain a criterion for struggle and commitment to the pan-Arab and socialist trend, that it is a bridge leading to Arab unity just as Arab unity is a bridge leading to liberating Palestine. He said that the slogan launched by comrade leader Hafiz al-Asad says Syria is for Palestine just as Palestine is for Palestine and that the banner of Palestine will remain high until liberation. This lofty pan-Arab slogan constitutes our great party's political and militant trend and that revolutionary Syria's position on the Palestine question is a firm and principled position, which has been stressed by the comrade secretary general of the Ba'th Party on several occasions.

He also said: We will continue to deepen our militant cohesion with our Palestinian people and their combat factions inside and outside the occupied Arab territories in order to reinforce the armed struggle and to safeguard the Palestinian rifle. Syria will continue to support the Lebanese national position as well as the brave national resistance in the heroic south in order to

liberate the land, expel the Zionist invaders, and preserve Lebanon's independence, Arabism, and unity of its land and people.

Sa'id Sayf then delivered a speech for the Arab liberation movements in which he stressed the importance of convening this congress in Damascus, which confronts the Zionist enemy and refuses to bargain over the inalienable and historic rights of the Palestinian people and the Arab nation.

Karim Muruwah, deputy secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, delivered the speech of the Lebanese national movement. He said: We are before a major crossroad in Lebanon these days, but we are confident that we will be able in the end to defeat the dictatorial fascist plan, remove Michel 'Awn's clique, liberate our land from Israeli occupation, and entrench Lebanon's Arabism.

Khalid al-Fahum delivered the speech of the Palestine National Salvation Front. He explained that the intifadah has projected the Palestinian cause internationally, and affirmed that the unity of the land, the people, and armed struggle shall remain firm bases for liberating Palestine. Finally, Abu Musa delivered the speech of Fatah-The Uprising in which he extended sincere greetings to comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad and the brave Syrian Army which, he said, has fought the Arab nation's wars, especially the great October War, in defense of Arab rights and existence. He also hailed the Syrian Arab people who, he said, are paying from their sons' blood and daily bread for the sake of the Arab nation's might and dignity. He explained that what is taking place in Lebanon today is not only against Lebanese nationalists, but all the pan-Arab struggle forces headed by Syria which, under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, is playing a central role in confronting the enemies of the nation on more than one front. He affirmed that despite all plots, revolutionary Syria has remained a lofty bastion against anyone who contemplates tampering with the causes of the Arab nation.

Palestinian Fund Meetings Open in Cairo 3 Nov

NC0311175189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] The meetings of the Palestinian National Fund opened in Cairo today under President Yasir 'Arafat. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, attended part of the session, which was held at the al-'Urubah Palace, the residence of the Palestinian president. In a speech at the opening of the session, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid emphasized the deep ties linking the Egyptian and Palestinian leaders and people.

Fund Resumes Meetings 4 Nov

NC0411164889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT
4 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—The meetings of the Palestinian National Fund resumed this morning under

the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, in the presence of Shaykh 'Abd-al-hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, the parliament in exile, and Jawid al-Ghusayn, official in charge of the fund.

According to responsible Palestinian sources, in its third and final session, the fund will resume discussion of ways to develop its financial resources to support the intifadah in the occupied territories as well as a discussion of the next year's appropriations for various sectors.

It is noteworthy that the fund's budget for this year amounts to \$274 million in addition to \$132 million, contributed by Arab countries to support the intifadah, and \$51 million from Iraq.

The Palestinian National Fund, convening in Cairo for the first time in 14 years, held two working sessions yesterday, Friday.

The Palestinian leadership has asked a number of Palestinian economists to prepare the first 5-year plan for the state of Palestine.

PFLP-GC Denies UK Paper's Story on Pan-Am Crash

JN0611060389 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Yesterday in Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] headed by Ahmad Jibril denied once again its complicity or involvement in last December's Pan-Am crash over Lockerbie. The front was commenting on reports published in the SUNDAY TIMES.

The British paper said yesterday that Western intelligence services are convinced that the PFLP-GC was behind the Lockerbie operation. The paper said new elements in the investigation have enabled British intelligence to compile a list containing the names of seven persons involved in the terrorist operation, all of them belonging to the PFLP-GC.

Al-Banna Reportedly Kills 156 Followers in Libya

NC0611124589 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
31 Oct 89 p 10

[Text] Two dissident members of Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC] have accused its leader Sabri al-Banna (Abu-Nidal) of killing 156 of his followers in the Libyan Jamahiriyah last year, and burying their bodies under concrete foundations.

In a report from Tunis, REUTER cites two separate statements issued by 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Isa and 'Atif Abu-Bakr, former members of the FRC Central Committee and Political Bureau, which contain these accusations.

In their statements, the two men affirm that Abu-Nidal enjoys full freedom in Libya.

In his statement, 'Isa pointed out that he left the FRC on 18 October. He disclosed that Abu-Nidal executed 156

FRC members working in the movement's offices and branches in the Libyan Jamahiriya last year, because they opposed his methods.

The dissidents revealed that the FRC camp is located at a farm in the Sawani area near Tripoli, and that the movement has an office in the Suq al-Jum'ah suburb, southeast of the Libyan capital.

According to 'Isa, the Libyans never interfered in the FRC's internal affairs. They gave Abu-Nidal a degree of freedom of movement and communication which had never been granted to any other Palestinian leader.

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi told the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR last week that he had supported certain groups without knowing that they were involved in terrorist activities, and that he ended his support as soon as that fact came to his knowledge. Officials in the U.S. State Department replied to that by saying that Abu-Nidal's headquarters are still in Tripoli.

The two dissidents said that Abu-Nidal had ordered his men to place the bodies of his opponents inside concrete foundations in Sawani camp. Among the victims, 'Isa said, were Hajj Abu-Musa, the official in charge of FRC troops in Lebanon, and Musa Ahmad Rashid, FRC representative in Kuwait. He noted that the bodies of these two officials were buried under concrete foundations at a site on which Abu-Nidal later erected a building.

According to the dissidents, Mustafa Murad and Ilyas Abu-Nizar were among Abu-Nidal's victims, and were killed in his office on 17 October.

South Asian Regional Affairs

SAARC Foreign Ministers Convene Meeting

Butto Opens Session

BK0811083189 Islamabad Overseas Service
in English 0800 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has called on the South Asian countries to work out a partnership aimed at meeting their security concerns and social and economic means to realize the potential of the region as an economic power. She said this while inaugurating the seventh session of SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] council of foreign ministers in Islamabad this morning. The prime minister emphasized that it should be a partnership of mutual trust and commonality of interests to carry them forward into the 21st century.

She said this gathering of neighbors and friends demonstrates that the SAARC members have a spirit of working together and are determined to find solutions to their common problems to improve the welfare of their people. In this context, Ms Benazir Bhutto referred to many problems and challenges confronting the region

where majority of people live deprived of basic (?necessities). She also spoke of low literacy growth, higher population growth, and infant mortality rate, inadequate health cover, and lack of drinking water for rural populations. In spite of all this, she pointed out that they find within themselves the will and tenacity to take on the challenges. She urged the SAARC partners to devise means to achieve the goals of alleviating poverty and underdevelopment in the region.

The prime minister pointed to the legacy of mistrust, suspicion and genuine security concerns and emphasized the need for overcoming these so that the problems of underdevelopment are not compounded by misgivings and misperceptions. She said we need courage and vision to look into the future to build a tomorrow of promise, hope, and encouragement for our people.

Butto Calls for 'Cooperation'

BK0811084489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT
8 Nov 89

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 8 (AFP)—Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called on South Asian countries Wednesday to work out a "partnership" which could avert the dangers of armed conflict and a nuclear arms race in the region.

Inaugurating a two-day meeting here of foreign ministers of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Ms. Bhutto said the region had the potential to become an economic power.

"We can achieve this power if we try to solve, and not create, problems for each other," she said in a reference to conflict plaguing the SAARC members—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The foreign ministers, besides finalising dates for the next SAARC summit to be held in Colombo, will also consider ways of transferring technology among the member states.

Participants in the meeting will also study a Pakistani proposal to set up a centre for human resource development in Pakistan, conference sources said.

In addition, they will discuss stepping up cooperation in such fields as education, rural development, science and technology, telecommunications, transport and tourism, the sources added.

Ms. Bhutto said the region, home to one-fifth of humanity, could solve its problems "if we can work out a partnership which meets our security concerns as well as our social and economic needs."

"We seek to work together as neighbours to avert the dangers of armed conflict, particularly the nuclear arms race," she said.

Pakistan and India are the only countries pursuing nuclear programmes in the region, an issue heightening mutual suspicion and doubt between the two Asian neighbors, who have fought three wars since independence in 1947.

Ms. Bhutto, 36, the current SAARC chairwoman, reiterated that Pakistan was committed to peace in the world in general and in South Asia in particular.

"We are prepared for negotiations to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons in our region on a non-discriminatory basis," she said, renewing her offer to India to agree to a regional non-proliferation treaty.

"We need the courage and the vision to look into the future," Ms. Bhutto said, adding that the "legacy of mistrust, suspicion and genuine security concerns needs to be overcome."

The world is witnessing an era where "cooperation" and not "confrontation" is the theme, where "hope" and not "fear" is the password, she said.

"The SAARC countries must welcome these developments concretely by playing their role in promoting world peace," the Pakistani leader said.

She urged the foreign ministers, who form the decision-making body of the four-year-old group, "to provide a framework in which the creative abilities of our people are released to meet the challenge of under-development."

The meeting of SAARC foreign ministers had been suspended since July amid a dispute between New Delhi and Colombo over the presence of Indian troops deployed in the island state to end its Tamil separatist conflict.

The charter of SAARC, launched in Dhaka in 1985 as a largely-economic body, prohibits the raising of contentious issues at its formal sessions.

But a Sri Lankan boycott to press for a time-table for the withdrawal of the Indian troops and a trade dispute between India and Nepal contributed to delaying the start of the ministerial meeting, sources here said.

Pakistan has called for a "reordering of priorities" by SAARC in favour of more action-oriented projects and has advocated a cautious approach against venturing into too many areas too soon.

The ministers are also to review progress made on major decisions taken at the fourth summit held in Islamabad in December on combating drug abuse and implementation of a regional convention on suppression of terrorism.

India's Rao Gives Address

BK0811130589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] India has urged the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member countries to take a bold initiative for freer movement of people by increased exchange of goods and services based on a systematic utilization of available resources in the region. Speaking at the seventh session of the SAARC council of ministers meeting which began in Islamabad today, the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, said this would be a complex process, but the alternative would be stagnation. Mr Narasimha Rao said modalities for the issue of SAARC travel documents had been worked out which would enable visa-free travel facilities for members of parliament and supreme court judges in the region. He said the work done in regard to joint ventures in the field of agriculture, rural development, health, and information flow should be carried forward to consolidate the gains of the movement for a better tomorrow.

The minister said the immense potential available in the region should be put to effective use for accelerating economic and social needs of the people.

Earlier in her opening remarks, the current chairperson, Ms Benazir Bhutto, called on the member countries to work out a partnership amongst them to meet their security concerns as well as their social and economic needs. She said the creation of a partnership of mutual trust and commonality of interest will carry the South Asian region into the 21st century.

Egypt**Mubarak, King Husayn View Bilateral Relations***NC0511213489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1957 GMT
5 Nov 89*

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan this evening. The two leaders exchanged views on the latest developments in the Arab arena and on bilateral relations.

'Arafat Leaves After Heading PLO Meeting*NC0511111689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT
5 Nov 89*

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo for Baghdad this morning after heading the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee which wound up early today. 'Arafat also headed the meetings of the Palestinian National Fund.

During its meetings the PLO Executive Committee discussed in particular the proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and the amendments introduced to them. The committee also discussed developments in the international, Arab, and Palestinian situations and ways of supporting the intifadah in the occupied territories.

PLO Executive Committee members Faruq Qaddumi, Bishop Iliya Khuri, and Abu-'Ali Mustafa did not attend the meetings.

A press statement on the PLO Executive Committee meetings will be issued later today.

PNC Speaker Ends Visit, Leaves for Amman*NC0511170389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1620 GMT
5 Nov 89*

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Palestine National Council [PNC] Chairman Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sayih left Cairo for Amman this afternoon following a visit which lasted several days. While in Egypt, he attended the Palestinian National Fund meetings chaired by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. He also participated in the PLO Executive Committee meetings that dealt with the current situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and the developments in the Palestinian intifadah.

UK's Waldegrave Arrives in Cairo 5 Nov*NC0511225089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT
5 Nov 89*

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—William Waldegrave, British minister of state in the Foreign Office, arrived in Cairo this evening on a 2-day visit to Egypt.

In an arrival statement, the British minister said that during his visit he will hold political talks with a number of Egyptian Foreign Ministry officials to learn the latest

developments in the Middle East and achievements in the peace process. He noted that Egypt is considered an important center for events in the area, and "this will help us to evaluate the next step which it will take."

Waldegrave added that during his visit to Cairo he will hold a conference of British ambassadors in the Middle East to discuss a number of regional issues, such as developments in Lebanon and Sudan and the Egyptian peace initiative in the Middle East.

Asked about the EC's position on the Middle East peace process, Waldegrave said that the EC supports the Egyptian initiative and urges the parties concerned to take a positive attitude toward peace.

He said he was in Washington last week and held talks with a number of U.S. officials aimed at promoting the peace process in the Middle East.

Waldegrave pointed out that Britain supports direct dialogue between the Palestinians and Israelis, and said that Israel must take a positive stand toward Egypt's diplomatic efforts.

The British minister is scheduled to hold a news conference at the conclusion of his visit to Egypt on Tuesday. He was welcomed at the airport by Yusuf Shararah, assistant foreign minister; Ambassador Hamdi 'Azam, deputy director of the West European department; Ambassador Anis Ni'mallah from the protocol department; and James Adams, the British ambassador in Cairo.

Austrian Public Security Director Arrives 5 Nov*NC0511225389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2146 GMT
5 Nov 89*

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—Robert Weindenger [name as received], deputy Austrian interior minister and director of public security, arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit which will last for several days.

During this visit the Austrian official will meet with Interior Minister Zaki Badr and a number of senior Interior Ministry officials and police commanders to exchange views on security cooperation and to discuss ways to expand cooperation between the Egyptian and Austrian police.

DPRK Army Chief in Cairo for Official Visit*NC0611093189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0844 GMT
6 Nov 89*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Nov (MENA)—General Chu Kwang, chief of staff of the DPRK Armed Forces [name and title as received], arrived in Cairo this morning for an official 5-day visit at the invitation of Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu-Shinaf, Armed Forces chief of staff.

Military talks under the chairmanship of the Armed Forces Chiefs of Staff of the two countries are due to begin tomorrow, Tuesday. The delegations will discuss ways of promoting bilateral military cooperation. An

official reception ceremony for the DPRK official at the Defense Ministry's general headquarters in Nasr city will precede the talks. [passage omitted]

Abu-Shinaf on Israeli Satellites, Nuclear Power

JN0511212489 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic
3 Nov 89 pp 12, 13

[Interview with Lieutenant General Safiy-al-Din Abu-Shinaf, Egyptian chief of staff, by Sana' al-Sa'id—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] AL-MUSAWWAR: Israel is developing two new satellites for spying and collecting information, in addition to the satellite it launched over a year ago in September 1988. What is our stand as Egyptians and Arabs toward this? If we and the Arab countries possess the technology and if the Arab countries possess the necessary funds, why do we desist from entering this vital sphere?

Abu-Shinaf: Satellites were developed in the fifties and sixties, and they are not something new. Outer space contains more than 3,000 satellites launched by the East and West. They have different orbits and ranges. Some of them are used for communications and research, while others are known as military satellites which orbit the earth at low altitudes of 250-400 km. These are provided with precise equipment for various types of photography. This, however, is not enough, because the country possessing satellites should be able to penetrate all the means of communication of the state over which the satellite is orbiting before it can analyze and understand the meaning of what the satellites are photographing; otherwise, they would be useless. The best proof on this is what we achieved in the October 1973 war in spite of the existence of about 3,000 satellites in space at that time. [passage omitted]

AL-MUSAWWAR: Can satellites pose a real danger to the Armed Forces?

Abu-Shinaf: Satellites do not pose a real threat to the Armed Forces, and their merits can be countered by concealment and camouflage on the strategic level, in addition to other methods which we know and master, but cannot discuss here.

Back to the subject of the Israeli satellites, I would like to say that Israel's entrance into this sphere was not a surprise to us, because we are following up the Israeli programs as well as the international programs and researches in this sphere. The technology of building satellites is within easy reach of Arab scientists, particularly the Egyptians. The same applies to the technology of launching satellites. Restrictions lie only in the finances and expenditure priorities according to the country's needs. There is no doubt that Arab cooperation is a hope which will overcome many of the difficulties facing us in this regard, and which will make us cope with this development, whether on the regional or international levels.

AL-MUSAWWAR: Taking into account the nature of the Israeli nuclear program, which poses a threat to the Arabs, and Israel's continuous refusal to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty or to apply the comprehensive guarantees stipulated by the International Atomic Energy Agency to its nuclear facilities, I wonder: Doesn't this increase concerns over the nature and objectives of the Israeli nuclear program? Don't Israeli nuclear arms raise Egypt's concerns, especially since they have approximately 200 nuclear warheads?

Abu-Shinaf: I do not believe that Israel possesses this number of nuclear warheads. The exaggeration of Israel's possession of nuclear warheads must not lead us to heightening the threat to the Middle East region posed by nuclear arms. There have been several conflicts since the first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in 1945 until now, after more than 44 years. However, none of these states, including the big powers, has resorted to the nuclear option. This is because the brutality of confrontations has imposed restrictions on the use of nuclear arms. This has been to the advantage of mankind.

The world now is proceeding toward rejecting nuclear options to settle problems. As a nonaligned state, we have stressed this at the ninth nonaligned summit which was recently held in Belgrade. We have also blessed the two superpowers' steps regarding the limitation of nuclear arms and the reduction of conventional military forces by both the Warsaw Pact and NATO. The future world is looking forward to settling regional conflicts. This approach is currently being adopted by the two superpowers. The region's states should exploit international detente in construction and development, and not in arms races and wars. Worry springs from the fact that the use of nuclear arms will also bring catastrophes to the side that will use them. We should learn a lesson from the Chernobyl incident in the USSR. West Europe was affected by this incident although it is thousands of miles from it. There are also several regions that are still suffering from this incident. [passage omitted]

Editorial on Efforts To Solve Regional Issues

JN0511093489 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
3 Nov 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Necessary Efforts in a Decisive Stage"]

[Text] Cairo continues its diplomatic and political efforts to push peace efforts forward and maintain the momentum gained by the [Palestine] question to reach a framework on which the sides would agree to start an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue, taking into consideration the time factor after the announcement of the convening of the Bush-Gorbachev summit at the beginning of next month.

At the same time, there is Egyptian-Palestinian coordination at the highest level in light of the numerous meetings between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, which take place

everytime the need arises. Cairo also calls for evaluating stands and exchanging opinions concerning the Palestine question and the Middle East crisis. These meetings have actually affirmed their effectiveness and resulted in a tangible, positive development of events and the Arab and regional reactions.

Egyptian diplomacy believes that joint Arab action in dealing with the crisis is one of the most important necessities at this decisive stage during which the cause is facing a historic turning point. Therefore, Cairo is backing Arab efforts at all levels so that the Arab stand would appear united before international forums.

In addition to the prime central cause, Egyptian diplomacy is effectively and persistently doing its duty concerning Arab and African issues proceeding from its status on the one hand, and its historic responsibility toward establishing stability and peace to world countries on the other. There only remains for us to deal with our issues with a united opinion, which can be realized through objective dialogue taking all the facts of these issues into consideration.

Arab Efforts Exerted To Reconcile Syria, Egypt

JN0511190889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
4 Nov 89 pp 1, 2

[By Ayman Nur]

[Text] Ahmad al-Khawajah, doyen of Egyptian lawyers and head of the Arab Lawyers Union [ALU], has stressed that Arab efforts are currently under way to consolidate Egyptian-Syrian reconciliation. He pointed out that the ALU has played a role in clearing Arab disputes.

ALU sources in Cairo said that the ALU head's meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad last Wednesday dealt with Arab and political issues, in addition to some issues related to the Syrian Lawyers Association.

Arab diplomatic sources have recently stressed that during his recent visit to Cairo, President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih succeeded in reaching preliminary steps to restore Egyptian-Syrian relations in the near future. The sources said that the Yemeni president proposed the opening of representative offices in Cairo and Damascus under the Jordanian flag as a first step to exchanging full diplomatic representation. The Yemeni president also proposed a meeting between Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar' in the Jordanian capital in early December.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had earlier conveyed to President Mubarak a clarification of the Syrian stand toward George Habash's statements. He stressed to Mubarak that President al-Asad respects him.

AL-WAFD has learned that former Arab League Secretary General Mahmud Riyad will play a role in mediation between the two countries.

AL-AHRAM on Iran's 'Interference' in Lebanon

NC0511235489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2246 GMT
5 Nov 89

[Text] Cairo, 5 Nov (MENA)—AL-AHRAM warns against the dangers of Iranian interference in Lebanon. The paper notes that there are suspicious Iranian activities in Lebanon which could cause a new civil war. These activities are being conducted under the pretext of defending the rights of the Muslims in Lebanon, claiming that the national accord document which the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies approved in al-Ta'if was not fair to them.

The Monday editorial says that Iran's interference in Lebanon reached the point that its foreign minister met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus to declare Iran's opposition to the national accord document that Syria endorsed, and then met with Iran's Lebanese allies who said that the accord is a plot.

AL-AHRAM questions the reason for Iran's interference in Lebanon, particularly after the national accord document was approved. This document gave justice to the Muslims, as the Christians themselves have acknowledged. The paper notes that the most important thing the al-Ta'if agreement has achieved after its recognition of Lebanon's Arab identity was the elimination of political sectarianism, which has been the cause of destruction in Lebanon in the past two decades.

The paper affirms that this new situation balances the scale which was tipping in favor of the Christian communities. The Christian deputies themselves approved these reforms in a unique manifestation of national unity and collective effort to build a united Lebanon.

Mubarak, Ministers Tour Sinai Governorates

NC0511200289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak visited Sharm al-Shaykh this afternoon. He was accompanied by Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; and Dr Zakariya 'Azmi, head of the president's office. During the president's 2-hour visit to the area, he held a meeting to review the projects in the area. The meeting was attended by the ministers of reconstruction, transport and communications, administrative development, and tourism, as well as by Major General Nur-al-Din 'Afifi, governor of southern Sinai, and members of the Sharm al-Shaykh administrative council.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that the discussion dealt with the basic principles for the development of southern Sinai. He added that the president explained in the meeting, which he wanted to hold in the governorate, that the southern Sinai governorate and Sharm al-Shaykh have a special character and no construction, be it for housing or tourism, can take place

unless it is part of a comprehensive plan that takes into consideration the future of tourism and housing in this governorate. Priority in plans for the southern Sinai governorate and Sharm al-Shaykh must be given to tourism projects. [passage omitted]

Earlier in the day, President Husni Mubarak toured the northern Sinai Governorate. During this tour, the president visited al-'Arish and Shaykh Zughayb and inspected agricultural lands. At the end of the tour the president distributed title deeds to agricultural land to a number of citizens.

Defense Minister Attends Air Force Exercise

NC0511211689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1722 GMT
5 Nov 89

[Excerpts] Wadi al-Natrun, 5 Nov (MENA)—General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, has emphasized that Egypt is constantly working to make its Armed Forces strong and capable of safeguarding the homeland and to have them enjoy the confidence of the people and President Husni Mubarak, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and Arab and friendly countries.

Abu-Talib said that the state does not neglect the needs of its Air Force and always supplies it with the most modern aircraft and equipment in international arsenals. He noted that the Air Force currently has the most modern aircraft, equipment, and ammunition, as well as older equipment which has been modernized by Air Force personnel. This came in a statement by Abu-Talib at a ceremony marking the 57th anniversary of the founding of the Egyptian Air Force. The ceremony included a practical exercise and an overflight by 150 types of aircraft in the Egyptian Air Force. [passage omitted]

Air Force Commander Lieutenant General 'Ala'-al-Din Barakat also spoke. He stated that the Air Force is determined to raise its combat readiness and to redouble efforts to be prepared to confront any challenges and be capable of repulsing any aggressor through constant development of aircraft and equipment and intensive training to ensure speedy assimilation of new developments in the shortest possible time to achieve the highest international level in personnel capabilities. He said that this level was proved by joint exercises with sisterly countries and friendly big powers in terms of acquiring knowledge and asserting our confidence in the Air Force's ability to plan and run this type of advanced joint exercise. [passage omitted]

The practical exercise involved the occupation of an isolated vital air base in cooperation with other advance forces. The operation demonstrated precise planning and coordination. The exercise had five stages. The first aimed at ensuring tactical air control and crippling and destroying the air defenses surrounding the base. Mirage-5 aircraft carried out reconnaissance missions, a formation of F-16 aircraft intercepted Mirage-2000 planes,

and a formation of F-4 aircraft bombarded the air strips and crippled and destroyed the hostile air defenses.

In the second stage, F-4 and F-16 aircraft crippled and destroyed aircraft fortifications while MiG-21 aircraft destroyed air defense radars and the command post. Alpha jet aircraft destroyed logistical and supply areas and fuel tanks while MiG-21 aircraft provided air cover to the formations participating in the air operation.

The third stage involved engaging armored enemy reserves that tried to abort the air strike. A formation of Mirage aircraft attacked enemy tanks around the air base. A dogfight occurred between F-7 and Mirage aircraft and a formation of MI helicopters opened fire to destroy enemy troops in the air base while Gazelle helicopters provided protection and fired Hawk missiles at enemy armored vehicles.

The fourth stage involved airborne operations and launching a direct assault on the base after securing tactical control. In the fifth and last stage, the air base was taken and repaired to be used by the combat aircraft to complete the combat mission. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Affirms Desire for Peace, Praises Iraq

JN0711204889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Nov (INA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, head of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, has said that the Arab, cultural, and national identity of the Sudan is increasingly the target of attack.

He said in an interview with the INA correspondent in Khartoum today that the Sudanese people are ready to make great sacrifices for their homeland, territory, and dignity.

He described the Arab position on Sudan as an understanding and supportive stand. He said: We have found special understanding in President Saddam Husayn stemming from his excellency's genuine pan-Arab policy.

He adds: Iraq's brave sons, who triumphed on behalf of the whole Arab nation in liberating Iraqi territory, have always reaffirmed the depth of Iraq's genuine Arab support.

He pointed out that Iraq's genuine Arab Islamic gallantry is irrefutable evidence of Iraq's concern to preserve Sudan's Arab identity and dignity as well as a manifestation of its firm support for Sudan and solidarity with it.

In his statement, Lieutenant General al-Bashir noted the continuing efforts to establish peace in the south. He pointed out that the rebels' persistent refusal to end the fighting and establish peace will not stop his government from seeking this goal.

He restated his government's readiness to resume dialogue with the rebels to establish peace. However, at the same time he confirmed his total rejection of any preconditions for dialogue.

Peace Process Hurt by Al-Bashir's 'War Hysteria'

EA0411175989 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Nov 89

[Text] We comment on 'Umar al-Bashir's war hysteria. Before 30 June this year, there was a glimmer of hope that a peace process leading to the solution of the current armed conflict would mature. The 4th of July was agreed as the date for ironing out the remaining obstacles and 18 September was set for holding the national constitutional conference. But all of a sudden, 'Umar al-Bashir took over on 30 June and brought the wheels of the peace process to a halt. On 23 October 1989, the world was awakened by Radio SPLA's [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] announcement that the junta had attacked SPLA's positions in (Abu-al-Dugu), Surkum, and (Mayak) areas in Blue Nile Province.

This unprovoked attack of the junta on the SPLA positions was followed by a retaliatory attack and capture of Kurmuk garrison town by the SPLA forces of the New Funj, under the overall command of the SPLA chief of staff, Commander William Nyuan Bany, on 28 October 1989, 5 days after the attacking force of Brigadier 'Umar al-Bashir was routed in Surkum. The junta, as expected, blamed the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]/SPLA for the escalation of the war and abortion of the peace process which, in the first place, they laid to rest on 30 June. Brig 'Umar al-Bashir has vowed that Kurmuk must be recaptured from the SPLA in 2 weeks time, and that he will wipe out the SPLA by the end of this year.

What explanation does 'Umar al-Bashir give for the intensification of the war in the time that the SPLM/SPLA is calling for peace? What has forced the SPLA to capture Kurmuk was dictated upon it by the justified right of self-defense. While the junta was pretending talking peace in Khartoum, it was in practice preparing a massive dry season offensive against the SPLA.

It was reported over the international media that 'Umar al-Bashir has acquired highly sophisticated weaponry from abroad in order to execute his war which he hoped he would win in the hope that it would mark the beginning of what he called soldier-to-soldier talk, a dialogue with a weakened and humiliated SPLM/SPLA.

The SPLA has the right to defend itself politically and militarily. We are not fighting for the sake of fighting. What is happening on our side is not the intensification of the war, but rather to beat back the sinister military designs of the puppet and racist 'Umar al-Bashir. The fact that the SPLM/SPLA has lived for 6 years and witnessed the collapse of six governments is an indication that it has become a force to be reckoned with in the

Sudanese political arena, and no de facto government in Khartoum can simply wish it away. Neither can it be defeated. It is there to stay, and it shall continue to fight till its objectives are achieved. [passage omitted]

Return of Kurmuk Not 'Final Objective'

AB0611200389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Staff Brigadier al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, Revolution Command Council member, who is on an inspection tour of the Ad Damazin area, speaking to the radio reporter accompanying him, stressed the revolution's decision to restore security and stability in that area because it is rich in natural resources.

He said the outlaws' attack on Kurmuk shook stability and damaged production.

He added: The return of Kurmuk is not our final objective, but we view earnestly and with consideration the return of Kurmuk. He stressed that our Armed Forces enjoy high morale, and that in the name of the people, they will work on (?dislodging) the rebels. He pointed in his speech to the stand of the Sudanese people and their call for peace since 1985.

He also referred to the National Dialogue Conference on peace issues, pointing out that all the recommendations of the conference were in favor of the peace issues. He declared that peace will be achieved by various means, but the Sudanese people and its Armed Forces will choose the best path to achieve that goal.

He explained that the recommendations of the conference found great support internally and abroad, because they came from deep within the Sudanese people. It was therefore essential to make them reach sisterly and friendly countries.

Israeli Troops Said 'Involved' in Kurmuk

EA0811104289 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Nov (SUNA)—Israeli troops had been involved in the recent rebel attack on eastern border town of Kurmuk, according to the Qatari daily "AL-RAYA", which was quoting Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul.

He said Sudanese soldiers have spotted Israeli troops directing artillery fire towards Al-Kurmuk.

The minister was quoted by the paper as saying some quarters tend to report erroneous information about the Sudan.

He said the activities of the International Committee for the Red Cross, ICRC, would be reevaluated, adding that Sudan would not allow its security to be jeopardized.

'Text' of New Defense Forces Law Reported

EA0711180589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] The National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] has approved the law of the Popular Defense Forces [PDF] for 1989, and here is the full text of the law:

In the name of God, the merciful, and the compassionate, the Popular Defense Forces Law of 1989 A.D.

According to constitutional order number three of 1989, the NSRCC has approved the following law. The name of the law, the commencement of its validity:

I. The law is called the Law of the Popular Defence Forces for the year 1989, and will be applicable from the date of signing.

Abrogation and exemption:

II. It abrogates the law of the popular forces from the year 1981. However, all the statutes, orders, and regulations issued under the authority of that law shall remain in force, except such as are amended or abrogated on the basis of the present law.

Explanation:

III.

1) In this law, and unless it is phrased otherwise, the commander in chief stands for the supreme commander, who will command the Sudanese Armed Forces [PAF]. The commander stands for the commander of the PDF. The PDF stands for the forces that will be formed according to the fourth article of this law.

2) Every word or expression unexplained in the present law will be applied as explained in the PAF law.

IV. A paramilitary force will be established, which will be called the Popular Defense Forces under the commander in chief, and will be formed from qualified Sudanese citizens.

The Objectives of the Popular Defense Forces:

V. The Popular Defense Forces are aimed at training members of the public in civil and military tasks, and the elevation of security consciousness and military discipline, and they should be able to cooperate with the Armed Forces and other regular forces on demand.

The tasks of the PDF:

VI. The PDF will perform the following functions:

1) To help the PAF and the other regular forces on demand.

2) To participate in operations to defend the homeland, and to help in containing crises and disasters of a general nature.

3) To carry out any tasks they may be charged with by the commander in chief on his own behalf, or at the orders of the council

Appointment of the commander:

VII.

1) The commander in chief will appoint as the PDF commander an officer of the PAF of a rank no less than that of brigadier.

2) The commander in chief is authorized to appoint any number of PAF officers to serve under the commander.

3) The commander: The council is entitled, subject to the approval of the commander in chief, to appoint any number of individuals belonging to the other regular forces to serve in the PDF command, under the orders of the commander.

Duties of the commander:

VIII. The commander will carry out the following duties:

1) Subject to the approval of the commander in chief, he will issue an annual training program.

2) Subject to the approval of the commander in chief, he will issue the standing orders to the PDF.

3) He will issue the necessary orders and instructions governing the performance of duties and the maintenance of discipline, and will ensure the good behavior of the PDF.

Formation and composition of the council:

IX.

1) An advisory council shall be formed, known as the council of the PDF and to be composed as follows:

(a) the chief of staff of the PAF: chairman;

(b) commander of the PDF: rapporteur;

(c) director general of police;

(d) director general of prisons;

(e) director general of the fire brigade;

(f) secretary of the services commission;

(g) representative of the Ministry of Education and Instruction;

(h) representative of the Sudanese security service;

(i) representative of the Ministry of Local Government and Coordination of Regional Affairs;

(j) any other person considered to be suitable by the commander in chief.

2) Regulations shall govern the venue and manner of conduct of the meetings of the council, the issuance of resolutions, and the submission of recommendations.

Competencies of the council:

X.

1) The council shall be competent to advise the commander in chief on all matters relevant to the PDF;

- 2) Without prejudice to the provisions of Article I the council shall be competent to advise upon the following:
- (a) the areas in which the PDF are to be established;
 - (b) matters pertaining to the military, cultural, and patriotic training of the PDF;
 - (c) matters pertaining to the duties and activities of the PDF;
 - (d) any other matters affecting the PDF;

Conditions governing the acceptance of a volunteer for the PDF:

XI. The following conditions govern the acceptance of a volunteer for the PDF:

- 1) He should be a Sudanese national by birth.
- 2) He should not be less than 16 years old.
- 3) He should be medically fit.
- 4) He should be well behaved.

Summoning the PDF:

XII. The commander in chief is authorized to summon the PDF under any of the following circumstances:

- 1) for purposes of training;
- 2) at times of crisis or disaster;
- 3) in the event of the outbreak of war [hadd], or when such incitement is expected;
- 4) under any other circumstances that the commander in chief may deem fit.

Release of the volunteer:

XIII. It is incumbent upon the directors of government organizations and institutions, public and private companies, or of any other service to release any individual who has been accepted or summoned to serve in the PDF.

Training:

XIV.

1) The PDF will be trained under the annual training program, to be issued by the commander as provided for under Article VIII of this law.

2) Without prejudice to the provisions of Article I, the training shall proceed according to the following programs:

- (a) Military training;
- (b) Civil defense training;
- (c) Patriotic training;
- (d) Cultural training;

Recruitment rate:

XV. No more than 25 percent of the workers of any establishment in the private or public sector may become PDF recruits.

Rights and privileges:

XVI.

1) The PDF recruit retains the rights to his post, pay, allowances, and promotion in the public and private

sectors during the periods of training and of service after having been summoned. The private sector will continue to be responsible for its workers for a period not to exceed 3 months.

2) A student recruit retains the right to continue his studies following the end of his period of service.

3) [Words indistinct] the national service law, any period of time the recruit serves in the PDF will be taken into consideration.

Law of status and application law:

XVII. During periods of training and being summoned, members of the PDF will be subject to military law and court martials will be competent to try them.

Dismissal from the service:

XVIII. An individual may be dismissed or suspended during periods of training or being summoned for any of the following reasons:

- 1) Health reasons;
- 2) Disciplinary reasons;
- 3) Family circumstances;
- 4) Security reasons.

Budget:

XIX. The PDF shall have a budget separate from that of the Defense Ministry's, and expenditures from this budget shall proceed at the instructions of the commander in chief.

Issuance of statutes:

XX.

1) The commander in chief shall be authorized to issue the necessary statutes, orders, and instructions to implement the provisions of this law and to regulate all matters pertaining to the training, application, control, and organization of the PDF.

2) Without prejudice to the provisions of Article I the commander in chief is authorized to issue those statutes, orders, and instructions, as follows:

- (a) Period of service and advancement therein;
- (b) Uniforms and equipment required for training;
- (c) Monthly pay during periods of summoning and training;
- (d) Appointments, allowances, rations, housing, and transport during periods of training and being summoned;
- (e) Measures to be applied to enrollment in the PDF.

Issued under my signature on 7th Rabi al-Thani 1410 A.H.; corresponding to 5 November 1989 A.H.; Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the NSRCC.

Junta Member Says SPLM Wrecking Development

*EA0411084389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 3 Nov 89*

[Text] Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has accused Garang's movement [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army, SPLM/SPLA] of working against the interests of Sudan and wrecking development in the south. He added that the SPLM/SPLA is not concerned about the destruction being caused by the war in Sudan. Brig Kassiano explained that the security situation in Equatoria Region is very reassuring and that relief operations were proceeding normally there.

He also had a meeting at his office yesterday with the Indian ambassador in Khartoum. They discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and the Kurmuk incidents, in addition to the results of the national dialogue conference on peace.

Tunisia

President Interviewed on Regional Ties, Issues

*NC0611140689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0711 GMT
6 Nov 89*

["Text" of interview with President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali by Samir al-Ajuz, director of the MENA North Africa section and Tunis bureau, and Arab news agencies correspondents in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] Tunis, 6 Nov (MENA)—Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali has affirmed that even when diplomatic ties between Egypt and Tunisia were suspended, bilateral cooperation continued in view of the historical ties between the two fraternal peoples and the identical views held by both sides on numerous international issues of mutual interest.

He said that Tunisia was one of the first countries to welcome the restoration of Arab-Egyptian ties at the Amman summit conference and later Egypt's return to the Arab League at the Casablanca summit. He noted that since the beginning of the new era in Tunisia, intensive meetings have been held between officials of the two countries at the highest levels.

President Ben Ali said: "Our meeting with brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Tunis was very useful."

He emphasized the strong ties between the fraternal Tunisian and Egyptian peoples and said: "We are holding consultations over the Arab League headquarters issue but the question is not, however, on the agenda of bilateral discussions particularly as the transfer of the Arab League headquarters was carried out following a general Arab decision."

This came during an interview granted by President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali to Samir al-Ajuz, director of MENA's North Africa section and of its Tunis bureau, and to

correspondents of Arab news agencies in the Tunisian capital. The Tunisian president spoke of the achievements made during the 2 years since the November change of regime. He also spoke of the developments in the Lebanese crisis and the Iraq-Iran conflict.

Regarding the makeup of the Arab groupings, President Ben Ali said that the establishment of regional groupings bolsters collective Arab action and represents a step on the path toward comprehensive Arab unity. He expressed hope that the Arab Maghreb Union would become a bridge for dialogue between the Arab world and both Africa and Europe.

On his forthcoming visit to the United States, the Tunisian president said that he will discuss with President George Bush the developments in the Palestinian issue. He stressed that the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is bound to promote recognition of legitimate Palestinian rights.

President Ben Ali discussed developments in Tunisia and revealed that he had suggested to the al-Nahdah Party that it should publish a newspaper in order to explain its program. He emphasized that he rejects the use of religion for political purposes.

The text of the Tunisian president's interview follows.

[Correspondent] Two years after the 7 November change, during which time we have followed up the major achievements which took place in Tunisian life, are you satisfied with these achievements? To what extent do the national forces in the country respond to the program of political pluralism, the principles of democracy, and the principles of 7 November?

[Ben Ali] The plan for change which we introduced on 7 November 1987 is based on a view of the future that rests basically on continuous action. This is why the achievements which we made during these past 2 years are merely bricks in a structure that is being built gradually on this basis. As much as we are satisfied with what we have so far achieved in the sphere of democracy and human rights, in establishing political pluralism, national reconciliation, restoring respect for the state of law and institutions, and other gains in numerous fields, we sense the importance of the work which we still have to do in order to provide fully the components of a developed and prosperous society. The political reforms we have achieved and the shortcomings that we have rectified will remain fragile unless they are linked with success in handling the great challenges that a comprehensive development imposes on us.

The plan for change also has its economic and social dimensions. This is why we endorsed incentives to revive the national economy and promote investment and turned our attention to the social conditions of the citizens, especially those on a limited income.

We are convinced that economic and social development demands scientific planning which takes into consideration the requirements of the present situation and conditions and is dependent on a fundamental asset, which is work.

As for the program of plurality and democracy, it stems from the policies of the 7 November declaration which enjoys the unanimous support of all national forces. I believe that the conditions necessary to implement this program have existed for some time now and the appropriate and legal framework to make this a tangible reality has been established. All obstacles have been removed from the paths of most political and ideological views and currents so that they can be espoused by organizations. These organizations have begun to exercise their political rights in an atmosphere of democracy and legitimacy. This framework has been enhanced by the national reconciliation, which the Tunisians rallied around because it represents their great cultural goal. Undoubtedly these gains, which are considered to be the ideal blocks for building the desired civilian society, met with an overwhelming welcome and full response from all national forces.

[Correspondent] Political circles expect you to launch fresh initiatives dealing with national reconciliation and the economic reform plan. How do you view the next phase of domestic policy?

[Ben Ali] The reconciliation in the plan for change manifested itself in the national charter, which all political and ideological groups viewed as way to secure the right to participate actively in civilian life. We will continue our efforts to consolidate national reconciliation through continued dialogue between the government and all parties represented in society as well as our efforts to promote the political reforms we initiated on 7 November. In this respect, we will implement measures to expand the work of the economic and social council to include all political groups and to enhance the role of the Republic's constitutional council. Furthermore, we will announce on the 2d anniversary of 7 November other measures to support the national dialogue and the democratic process.

As for the economy, we shall continue the great reforms we have initiated according to the policies set out in the declaration of 25 July 1989. Furthermore, measures to reform the tax system will be announced on 7 November.

All these measures stem from our desire to enhance national reconciliation and boost the economic revival, now that Tunis is heading for a 3d year of change.

We will study economic and social projects to promote national reconciliation. This year will also witness the municipal council elections. The success of the plan for change lies in our total commitment to work in an atmosphere of national reconciliation and solidarity.

[Correspondent] The issue of the al-Nahdah party is still the focus of controversy in Tunisian political circles.

Why was this issue handled the way it was and was this handling in harmony with or contradiction of pluralism and the principles of the national charter?

[Ben Ali] When we chose democracy, which is rooted in pluralism, as the basis for our political system, we gave ourselves the constitutional right to establish political parties according to the conditions and rules stipulated by the law on parties.

All political and ideological trends have rallied around the national charter, which is considered a charter of honor regulating the features of a civilian society. The most important features are respect for freedom of expression and freedom to hold different opinions, guaranteeing the rights of citizens, equality among all Tunisian men and women, renunciation of violence and extremism, establishment of a civilized dialogue, and enhancement of the citizen's spiritual, linguistic, and historical identity as well as his receptiveness to the surrounding environment. We look at the issue of political organizations in our country, no matter which they are, from this perspective.

Once the constitutional, legal, and moral conditions are met, these parties can be authorized to operate in the political field. What you call the issue of the al-Nahdah party is no exception.

We have proposed that they publish a newspaper. We have asked them and continue to ask them to explain their goals and actions and to remove the misunderstanding about the use of religion for political ends. This is something we reject entirely because religion is for God and no one has the right to monopolize it or to put himself in charge of religion. The state alone is the responsible authority for protecting religion, propagating its tolerant values, and providing religious education. The state can seek the help of benevolent societies and organizations in this respect.

[Correspondent] What progress has been made in the creation of the Arab Maghreb Union and how can the coming summit in Tunis be a new watershed in this process?

[Ben Ali] The creation of the Arab Maghreb Union is a prominent historical event that derives legitimacy from the history of the region's peoples, their joint struggle for liberation, and their aspiration to build a better future for future generations.

We have eliminated the psychological barriers and the region's peoples and leaders have opened their hearts to each other to serve their mutual interests. We have begun the process of building the union on strong foundations. The constitutional structures and specialized committees have been set up and all of them represent appropriate frameworks through which the first practical steps toward union can be taken.

In this context, a consultative council has been established and specialized committees have been formed. Several contacts and meetings have been held, the latest

being the meeting of the union's council of foreign ministers. These steps confirm that the union is progressing steadily and according to the charted guidelines. There is no doubt that the Tunisia of the new era, proceeding from its role in building the Maghreb edifice, from its firm belief in the inevitability of the common fate, from its conviction in the duty of the economic groupings in confronting challenges, and from its faith in the profound fraternal ties among the peoples of the region, will bolster this process and, during its chairmanship of the union, seek to aid the established structures in preparing the executive program for integration on all levels. The Tunisia of the new era, in emphasizing the union's Arab character and African dimension, will seek to consolidate ties with the regional Arab, African, and European groupings in a manner that will further serve the mutual interests and turn the Arab Maghreb Union into a bridge for dialogue between the Arab and African world and Europe.

In this context, we will also continue the dialogue with the European Community to establish relations based on equality between the union and the Community. Within the union, we give great importance to intensifying bilateral cooperation in all fields so as to ensure steady development and coordination in the service of the integration efforts.

In this respect, bilateral meetings will be held on all levels. This is only one step we are taking in the union's process and it will be followed by other steps until the structure is completed.

[Correspondent] The Arab Maghreb Union, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Cooperation Council are all new formulas. How can these groupings promote joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab League?

[Ben Ali] Tunisia profoundly believes that the establishment of regional groupings, which has been facilitated by shared conditions, is inevitable in confronting all challenges to the shared legitimate aspirations.

Meanwhile, Tunisia believes that the regional grouping at the Arab level, which does not conflict with Clause 9 of the Arab League Charter, bolsters joint Arab action and constitutes a step on the road to comprehensive Arab unity. For this reason, Tunisia has welcomed the emergence of the Arab Cooperation Council. It is following this grouping's progress with interest as it follows the achievements of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Since development is one of the greatest challenges confronting our peoples, the emergence of such groupings is bound, in its first phase, to provide our groupings with a greater ability to find suitable solutions to meet the challenges, especially if we boost these efforts by bilateral cooperation between the various Arab states. We hope that this cooperation will develop so that it will ensure greater success among the groupings. The Arab

League can be the appropriate framework for coordination among the three Arab groupings on the level of regional planning and programs.

[Correspondent] Egypt's return to the Arab League has raised the issue of returning the League's headquarters to Cairo. What is Tunisia's position on this matter and is there consultation with Egypt over the future of the League? How do you assess Tunisian-Egyptian relations in light of President Husni Mubarak's recent visit and the invitation he extended to you to visit Egypt?

[Ben Ali] The restoration of Tunisian-Egyptian diplomatic ties has had an important effect on boosting the cooperation which continued even when those ties were suspended. This was done in view of the historical bonds between the two fraternal peoples and their identical views on numerous international issues of mutual interest. Tunisia was among the first countries to welcome the restoration of Arab-Egyptian ties at the Amman summit and Egypt's return to the Arab League at the Casablanca summit. Since the beginning of the new era, intensive meetings have been held by officials at the highest level. A higher joint committee for cooperation and bilateral consultation was established under the chairmanship of the two countries' prime ministers. This committee held its first meeting in Egypt and is expected to meet in Tunisia soon.

Our meeting with our brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak in Tunis was very useful and demonstrated the strong ties between the fraternal Tunisian and Egyptian peoples.

As for consultations between Tunisia and Egypt, they have not been limited to Arab issues but have also extended to African and international issues, such as nonaligned issues, and bilateral cooperation within the African six-member committee charged with finding a solution to the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute.

Our future meeting with our brother President Husni Mubarak will be an opportunity to promote our bilateral relations and to continue our consultations over all issues of mutual interest on the Arab and African levels. Our discussions may possibly include the Arab League headquarters issue but this matter is not currently on our agenda, at least not on the bilateral level, particularly as the headquarters' transfer to Tunis was carried out by a general Arab decision. Hence a decision on the issue must be made within a general Arab context after the two countries' views are taken into account.

[Correspondent] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is in constant touch with you. During your last meeting with him, he referred to Your Excellency's forthcoming visit to the United States. How do you view your coming discussions with U.S. President George Bush in connection with the Palestinian issue, peace in the Middle East, and Tunisian-U.S. relations?

[Ben Ali] My meeting with President George Bush will be held in the context of the friendship between the Tunisian and American peoples which has developed

and grown stronger within the framework of mutual respect. Naturally, in addition to bilateral issues, we will discuss a number of current regional and international issues, including the Palestinian issue, during our meeting with President Bush.

The continuing U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is bound to promote the recognition of Palestinian legitimate rights within the context of an international conference for peace in the Middle East in which all parties, including the PLO, will participate. We strongly believe that all the proposed plans will not lead to radical solutions unless they are designed to attain a comprehensive and just solution to the Middle East issue.

[Correspondent] Tunisia has made numerous contributions to assist in resolving the Lebanese issue. How do you assess the achievement made at the al-Ta'if meetings regarding Lebanon's future?

[Ben Ali] Like other Arab brothers, we are pained by the serious events in Lebanon in view of our fraternal ties with that country. As much as we agonized over this issue, we sought with the other brothers to find a solution to this crisis that would take into account the Lebanese people's aspirations and end the war and the bloodshed. Tunis was a member of the six-member committee which carried out contacts with all parties concerned with the issue. It gained knowledge of the various standards and sought to bring the divergent views closer, thus preparing the ground from which the higher tripartite committee, which was formed by the Casablanca summit, proceeded.

Tunisia extended support to this committee's activity which was crowned by the al-Ta'if agreement. It is only right to state that this tripartite committee played a major role in attaining a praiseworthy accord. We hope that the al-Ta'if agreement will help restore peace to Lebanon and rebuild its constitutional institutions in a manner that will enable it to regain its national unity, territorial integrity, and its role within Arab ranks.

[Correspondent] Regarding the Gulf war, the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran has not turned into a permanent peace. What is the role of the Arab countries and the EC in establishing peace in that region?

[Ben Ali] Tunisia was one of the members of the seven-member committee which played a major role in persuading the international community to intervene firmly to stop the Iraq-Iran war. We were pleased by the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 598 which put an end to the armed conflict between the two neighbors and provides an appropriate basis for a just peace and a comprehensive and final solution. We regret, however, that the peace negotiations have been faltering since August 1988. We hope that the efforts of the UN secretary general and his special envoy to the region will achieve tangible results. We call on the international community to work to implement the UN Security

Council resolution so that a secure future for the region can be guaranteed and the truce can become a true peace between the two countries.

We believe that Iraq has done all it can to establish peace, including the reconstruction of cities located near the Iranian border after they were destroyed by the war, thus proving its adherence to peace. We hope that the new leadership in Iran will place the region's interests above every other consideration, that it will respect neighborliness, and make initiatives that will contribute to closing the chapter of war and at the least help in establishing normal ties with all the countries of the region.

[Correspondent] Tunisia's relations with other Arab countries are characterized by mutual respect. After the 7 November transformation all previous problems ended. What is your program to boost Tunisia's ties with Arab countries? Will there be visits soon to Arab countries? How do you evaluate the developing cooperation in the economic and investment spheres?

[Ben Ali] Since 7 November we have taken care to bolster our relations with fraternal countries. Our first visits abroad were to Arab countries. Since the first weeks of the transformation our meetings with our brothers were active and were conducted on all levels. There were bilateral and multilateral meetings that made it possible to conduct constructive talks and consultations. These helped boost Tunisia's ties with the Arab world which in turn restored to it its distinctive status on the pan-Arab scene and enabled it to carry out its role for the good of our fateful causes.

In this context Tunisia made numerous efforts to clear the atmosphere of Arab relations on both the bilateral and the regional levels. These efforts had a positive effect in providing the means of amity, understanding, and fraternity and paved the way for the establishment of the Arab Maghreb Union and the success of the Arab summit at Casablanca.

[Ben Ali] Moreover, our meetings with our brother Arab leaders were occasions to consult over the appropriate means for achieving accord in the Arab arena and bolstering Arab cooperation. We can say that the steps that have been taken in the past 2 years to strengthen Arab cooperation were very positive regarding the coordination of the joint committees' meetings between Tunisia and several Arab countries. There have been many economic and trade agreements between Tunis and a number of Arab countries. The technical cooperation between Tunisia and the Arab world has achieved tangible progress. There are currently, for instance, some 30,000 Tunisian technicians working in various fields in the Gulf countries. We are happy with this cooperation and are determined to increase it, because it plays a basic role in strengthening the integration efforts and expediting steps toward comprehensive Arab unity.

As for my future visits to Arab countries, I will visit, God willing, sisterly Iraq in December at the invitation of my

brother President Saddam Husayn. I have also received several invitations to visit other Arab countries.

[Correspondent] A unified Europe is in the offing. There are various expectations about how this will affect Arab interests. In view of its location and relations with the EEC, Tunisia is directly concerned about what is taking place on both the Arab and European sides. What are your ideas about how to bring common interests closer, particularly since you have welcomed the French president's call for holding an Arab-European dialogue in Paris before the end of this year?

[Ben Ali] Like other countries, Tunisia is following with deep interest the establishment of a unified European market in 1993. In view of its excellent ties with the EC, Tunisia, like other Arab and particularly Maghreb countries, is wondering about the possible repercussions of the establishment of a new economic order with new legislation and regulations. Among the questions being posed is the strengthening of trade ties among the European countries, which may result in protectionist measures that may have negatively affected our exports. Also, the standardization of legislation and specifications in all industrial, agricultural, and food fields may affect Arab exports to the EC. We may also wonder about the negative effects of the laws related to the transport sector on the activities of our national establishments and tourism in general. The plans and laws related to the freedom of movement and residence as well as the social measures benefiting the EC citizens in the European Parliament will definitely affect the conditions of life, work, and residence of the Arab communities in these countries. In order to confront these possible difficulties, the Arab countries must draw up a unified program for Arab cooperation that may give us more weight and enable us to cooperate with the EC in a more effective way for our development process. Within this context, we welcomed the French president's call for an Arab-European dialogue. In order for the dialogue to be productive, all parties must continue consultations over all political and economic issues. On the economic level, it is possible to consider the development of frameworks for continual dialogue to boost Arab-European cooperation toward integration and lay foundations of a cooperation program in the interest of both blocs.

[Correspondent] How do you view the developments in Algeria following the democratic reforms initiated by President Chadli Bendjedid?

[Ben Ali] We were very happy with the political developments in fraternal Algeria embodied in the consecration of multiparty system and democracy. These are important gains which the fraternal Algerian people are worthy of and we congratulate them.

Ben Ali Addresses Chamber of Deputies

NC0811104289 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1042 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Speech delivered by President Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali to the Chamber of Deputies in Tunis—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, and the compassionate. Mr Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, deputies, honorable guests, citizens. This day marks the 2d anniversary of the 7 November [movement]. Since then change has affected all domains of life in our country and it became an epitome of the comprehensive reform plan which we have started, with God's blessings, [words indistinct].

Today, after 2 years of serious work [words indistinct], through the entrenchment of democracy and the achievement of development, we can ponder together what has been achieved so far and what we have to do to implement the plan for the establishment of an advanced, balanced, and cohesive society. The change took place according to a clear concept and in an organized manner without haste and possible pitfalls or setbacks.

We seek to improve our conditions. The authority cannot realize this reform unless it has the readiness, the support, and the contribution of the the entire society.

The 7 November movement has restored sovereignty to the people. This means that every person, through his representative, is now directly entrusted with the country's destiny.

Citizens, during the past 2 years, legal and political achievements have provided security and impregnability to the homeland and the citizen. We have also created new and developed methods of political dealings that will facilitate the success of pluralism and responsible participation in the management of the public affairs and political life in the country.

We have also consolidated the national, cultural, and civilizational fundaments for the citizens and the country by restoring respect for Arab-Islamic values, promoting our true religion, and caring for the men of religion and religious institutions. At the same time, we have strengthened our adherence to the national civilian gains that have been achieved by virtue of our people's struggles and discerning awareness of the developments of the age and [words indistinct].

We have done our utmost to involve everyone capable helping to push forward the wheel of change, regardless of their political and intellectual orientations. The criteria guiding our steps were competence, honesty, and loyalty to the homeland. We spared no effort to support all the recognized parties in various forms and in a manner which would help them cope with the requirements of their work and assert their presence in the political arena in a considerable or [words indistinct]. This was done by supporting their respective papers and

presenting the (?resolutions) agreed upon before 7 November, or through providing favorable conditions for their participation in the structure.

We have been, and are still convinced that the parties we sought to involve in our institutions need a long time to prove an active presence which will no doubt enrich and vitalize our political system.

The parties were eager to hold the public legislative elections, unaware of the real meaning of representation. Hence, we organized premature public legislative elections, in which we provided all the necessary facilities to all candidates, including [word indistinct] to simplify conditions for candidacy. The concept of a national coalition was one of several other proposals we had made to make it easy for those who signed the national charter to enter the Chamber of Deputies. For the first time in contemporary Tunisian history, the elections were held with absolute honesty and clearness. Every candidate who wished to participate took part in them. It is wrong to find excuses from the electoral [word indistinct] which will have no influence on the voters, who gave 80 per cent of their votes to the Constitutional Democratic Rally [applause].

We did not use elections as an excuse to eliminate opposition. On the contrary, before and after the elections we made it clear that the balloting results will not dissuade us from involving the various capabilities in the responsibility.

However, it is our duty to habituate ourselves to respecting the laws and prerequisites of democracy and to accepting the results of the elections out of respect for our people, so that the balloting process, which should remain sacrosanct, may not be degraded. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, we have and still are working to familiarize all with and habituate them to accepting each other, no matter how different their approach may be, so that an acceptable and tolerable difference may not be turned into a conflict or one-upmanship at the expense of national interests. We do not advocate a false democracy or the democracy of appearance. We adopted a gradual, deliberate, and phased approach in response to the dictation of our duties which call on us to take prevailing conditions into consideration and make sure that there is a sincere will to protect our democratic course against all dangers.

The only principle related to the right to organization and involvement in political life which guided our steps was respect for the parties' law and its provision for commitment to the rules of sound competition and to protecting the citizens' gains. We also committed ourselves to the principles and values of the national charter which determine the code of political competition and the common denominators which should always remain the subject of accord and consensus [word indistinct] all citizens.

This is no innovation and it implies no injustice against anyone, because there can be no democracy or pluralism

unless there is a minimal level of accord which guarantees intercommunication and stability. In this respect, it is our duty to clarify matters about our repeated emphasis on the need not to confuse religion with politics. [applause]

Politics is a field in which people compete over relative values which are negotiable and open to differences. Religion, on the other hand, is an entity of eternal values which cannot be argued. Islam is the religion of all and cannot be the subject of competition or one-upmanship, or a means to an end. [applause] Only the state of all Tunisians can be the protector of the Tunisians religion—a state which protects and fosters religion and derive from its tolerable values. Therefore, to those who mix religion and politics we say that there is no way to cause a commotion. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, today, when all matters have become clear and the political map has crystallized, and until it is time for the next legislative balloting, it is possible to initiate a sound and responsible dialogue to specify a transitional period from the present stage of political and intellectual pluralism to the stage of actual and legal pluralism in the constitutional institutions.

In this respect, nothing is better than the Supreme Council of the national charter as a framework for consultations. It can be entrusted with the national charter and can make suggestions to the president on measures and initiatives which would consolidate its values and principles and spread the sense of responsibility among the citizens.

In order to expand the channels of dialogue, we have decided to increase the number of the Economic and Social Council members to make room for all the (?signatories) to the National Charter, provided this Council does not deviate from its new consultative functions and turn into a pulpit for competition. In order to consolidate democracy, we have decided that the Republic's Constitutional Council be organized by a law to ensure its financial and administrative independence. According to the law, the president of the Republic will undertake to submit the draft laws to this council, particularly those concerning liberties and human rights, provided the draft laws are then referred to the Chamber of Deputies accompanied by the Council's opinion on these laws. This is another step in the context of our quest to establish a democratic system at fixed stages. To the extent that the appropriate conditions and circumstances are available, further steps will follow to modernize the laws related to the organization of political life. [applause]

Let this stage be one of (?consolidating) a number of values and principles without which no plurality could be ensured and no democracy could be firmly established. The administration and the media have a great role to play here. It is the duty of the administration, at all levels, to serve all Tunisians and to treat them without exception or discrimination as citizens equal in rights and duties. The media also has a great responsibility to

promote dialogue over the major causes in the various fields, and it is requested to be objective, to ensure the exchange of viewpoints, and to explain the various opinions and alternatives. In this respect, I would like to draw particular attention to the need to avoid signs of indecency in some of the (?published) media that indulge in defamation and scurrility against the integrity of individuals, and which went as far as upsetting some friendly and sisterly parties. Such abuse is unacceptable, and it harms the interests of the country and gives a negative impression of our understanding of the concept and limits of freedom. I hope, in this respect and in others, that people will know the limits, and that the Liaison Council [not further specified] will prepare a code of honor for this profession that could outline its ethics and values in a way that will help promote a rational expression in this vital field.

Oh citizens, in the course of our constant and careful listening and follow-up of the concerns of the public opinion in our country, we have come to realize that the majority of citizens, from various factions and areas, believe we have given too much room for political argument, that this was at the expense of real action, and that this has distracted us from devoting all our time to achieving the material interests of this majority. While we appreciate this opinion, out of our understanding of the citizens' eagerness to see tangible action that could change the course and conditions of life for the widest national segments, we believe that setting the appropriate political grounds is essential for embarking on the development process on solid bases. While attaching due importance to consolidating these grounds, it never escaped our mind that such a quest would be inadequate, and even fruitless, unless it is accompanied by a similar development process. This is true because if no development could be achieved without democracy, it is equally true that no democracy could be achieved without a development that could meet the citizens' demands and ensure their dignity, so that they could contribute to the discharge of public affairs on objective and balanced basis. [applause]

Proceeding from this conviction, we started to tackle the economic situation by reviving Tunisians' hope in the future of the country and its ability to overcome obstacles. Toward that end, we have taken several measures and steps to promote economic activity, thus giving the reform program fresh air and increasing its chances of success. Thus, it was possible to alleviate the momentary difficulties in a free and open atmosphere, which could be described in the least as [words indistinct]. Ensuring the availability of the basic means of livelihood for the majority of people, particularly those with modest means, during these harsh circumstances, is in itself an indisputable success. It was not difficult for us to comprehend that streamlining the economy is not done merely by confronting these transitory difficulties, despite their importance. Therefore at the same time, we worked to overcome these difficulties and to put the appropriate framework for an integrated future plan that

could enable the country to have a sound economic structure by means of tackling the major national causes and issues.

In keeping with our national duties, we have informed the public of all these difficulties and of the efforts and sacrifices all of us have to make to carry out this ambitious plan. I elaborated on this topic in a speech (?last April). In that speech, I gave a clear account of the features of our economic policy, its (?functions), and the need for essential reforms in [words indistinct].

Next year will be decisive regarding tax reforms. Following the reforms of indirect taxation [words indistinct] it is now time to reform the structure of indirect taxation. The current system of direct taxation, besides being complicated and clumsy, is marked by a steep rise in the tax rate, a matter which is blamed for (?tax evasion) and for reducing the incentive for work and production. This situation has led to a multiplicity of tax exemptions and preferential treatment for business, a matter which narrowed the scope of taxable activities.

Today, as we undertake all the needed reforms, we have prepared a radical plan for reforms, incorporating all the existing income taxes in a single tax, irrespective of how varied the taxpayer's income is. The taxable portion of the total income will be significantly less than before. The new income tax, which will also be progressive, will not exceed 35 percent at its highest bracket, as compared to the current maximum of 65 percent. [applause]

Ladies and gentlemen, this long-awaited reform is a real accomplishment for the people, for it has achieved two purposes simultaneously. The new tax simplifies procedures of tax collection and it also reduces the burden of taxation in general and for the vast majority of salary- and wage-earners in all sectors in particular. As of the beginning of next year those taxpayers will be able to enjoy the benefits of this new system. [applause] Business will also benefit from the lower tax rates.

We have sought to enlarge the community of taxpayers and to establish a just distribution of the tax burden. This move should be met by commitment on everybody's side to pay their dues. As of today, no one has an excuse to evade taxes or hide their incomes. It is now the duty of the state, in defense of the whole community, to take all measures, including coercion and deterrence against all the defaulters, so that reforms will achieve their goals in stimulating work and in protecting the state's revenue and its ability to serve the public.

Reform is a major bid by the state to provide the proper atmosphere for a large economic stride that would bring prosperity to all. The fact that a large portion of our nation is in dire need of the simplest services only increases the need for reform. Unemployment, though less severe than it used to be, still exists in many sectors of the economy and it may get worse unless we give a strong push for development. Development is the best guarantee for social equity and for a national life undisturbed by upheavals or other hazards to the nation.

In this regard, we have taken sufficient measures to free individual initiative and strengthen the economy. However, the importance of the private sector in development and the efforts we make to encourage this sector and remove any obstacles to its activity do not relieve the state from its role or diminish the role of the national administration. Our administration is a large public service which we seek to improve so that it would be in a position to serve the public and meet their needs. Therefore, we have given a great push to decentralization in decisionmaking and implementation of policy, thus reinforcing and broadening the meaning of participation in this country.

We will keep moving ahead with reforms that would make the administration better equipped to encourage business and able to conduct the large state-run projects that provide the basic services needed for development.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are equally determined to continue our work on the international scene to further the stature of our country and strengthen its bonds of cooperation with all the friendly and brotherly countries, particularly the neighborly states. This cooperation is conducted both on the bilateral level and on the level of regional groupings, particularly the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]. We have a duty to give cooperation in the framework of the AMU a practical expression that matches the aspirations of the Arab Maghreb people.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are working tirelessly to bring our country into the 21st century as a strong country with an influential role in the international scene. We have to have the courage and the convictions to work hard and cooperate for this supreme national objective. "And those who believe and work righteous deeds—them we shall admit to the company of the righteous." [Koranic verse] Peace be upon you. [applause]

Ben Ali Receives French Prime Minister

*LD0411233889 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 4 Nov 89*

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Mr Michel Rocard, the French prime minister, who is present in Tunisia to attend the international meeting on democratic changes in today's world. [passage omitted]

He said that he is participating in the meeting which Tunisia is organizing about changes in today's world in connection with the issue of democracy and development, which suits Tunisia's political orientations. [passage omitted]

Government Welcomes Lebanese Election Results

*LD0711135189 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] An authorized source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has made the following statement:

The Tunisian Government received with utmost satisfaction the news of the election of the president of the

Lebanese Republic, and hopes that this important event will herald in a new era for this fraternal country and embody the integrity of its territories, its impregnability, sovereignty, and the resumption of its roles in the Arab and international arenas.

The Tunisian Government, which has always called for the unity of Lebanon, for its Arab quality, and has supported the tripartite committee in all its activities, offers its congratulations for this great achievement, which basically emanated from the al-Ta'if meeting.

Prisoners Pardoned on 2d Anniversary of 7 November

*LD0311140689 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 3 Nov 89*

[Text] On the occasion of the 2d anniversary of 7 November, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali decided to pardon 1,354 prisoners by reducing their hard labor sentences between 3 years and 3 months, depending on the sentence.

This was decided during the head of state's meeting this morning in the Palace of the Republic with Mr Hamed Karoui, prime minister; Moncef Bouaziz, minister of justice; Chadli Neffati, minister of interior; and Ahmed Guetari, director general of prisons.

Political Organizations Meetings End in Tunis

*LD0411234789 Tripoli JANA in English
1440 GMT 4 Nov 89*

[Text] Tunis, Al-Harth [November] (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—A series of meetings by the Committee of Political Organisations between Great Jamahiriya and Tunisia concluded in Tunis yesterday.

The meetings, attended by the assistant secretary of the General People's Congress and Abdelrahim Zouaoui [spelling of name as received], the secretary general of the Democratic Destourian Grouping in sisterly Tunisia, agreed a number of measures to coordinate between the General People's Congress and organisations of the Tunisian Democratic Destourian grouping on a number of intellectual issues which secure amongst other things contacts between them.

Also agreement was reached on setting up a committee to execute and follow up the issues agreed between them and present more effective proposals in coordination between the General People's Congress and the Democratic Destourian Grouping in the forthcoming weeks in Tripoli.

Daily's Interview With Italy's Craxi Cited

*AU0711100389 Rome ANSA in English 0811 GMT
7 Nov 89*

[Text] (ANSA) Tunis [no date as received]—"Tunisia is not an isolated nation because it is much more open to the world than many other countries in the region"

Italian Socialist Party secretary, and former Rome premier, Bettino Craxi said in an interview published Monday in the Tunisian French-language daily "LA PRESSE." Craxi was in the Tunisian capital to participate in the international symposium on democracy held here at the weekend.

"There exists (in Tunisia) a certain pluralism" Craxi continued, "given that diverse parties are both recognized and active. It is my view that, perhaps, electoral laws could be modified to guarantee that all parties are represented in parliament." At present, Tunisia has a "winner-take-all" system in which all seats in a constituency are given to the party which gets the most votes.

On immigration towards Italy, Craxi said the Rome government was examining the question and that it contained critical aspects. "We are well aware that this immigration will continue over the next few years" the Italian socialist leader underlined, "and it is for this reason why we must prepare the juridic groundwork to avoid painful conflicts. This is what the government is doing".

Regarding the present crisis in relations between Italy and Libya, Craxi stressed how Italy is a peaceful nation which is concerned with peace in the Mediterranean and which holds no hostility towards any other nation. "To demonstrate hostility towards us" Craxi underlined, "because of Italy's monarchic and fascist past is totally unreasonable. One gets the impression that this is a demagogic pretext linked to internal problems."

After recalling how the Italian Government had worked out a war damages settlement with the former king of Libya, more than thirty years ago, Craxi underlined how the value of Italian goods seized in Libya was in the billions of dollars. "Indirectly" Craxi affirmed "this compensates for what unfortunately occurred at the beginning of the century in the framework of the Italo-Turkish war. This is but another example why this agitation is incomprehensible and unacceptable."

On the question of the maps designating where the Italian Army planted mines during the period of occupation, Craxi recalled how Italy has already expressed its willingness to supply them once an appropriate accord has been reached.

Western Sahara

Government Urges Morocco To Resume Dialogue

LD0611115689 Algiers APS in Arabic 1000 GMT
6 Nov 89

[Excerpt] The Liberated Territories, 6 Nov 89, APS—A statement issued yesterday by the Saharan Ministry of Information pointed out that the Government of the Saharan Arab Republic, which met on Saturday under the chairmanship of Mohamed Abdelaziz, the head of state and secretary general of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of the Saguia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front, had once again called upon Morocco to begin direct dialogue as soon as possible to implement the resolutions of the international community.

The statement said that the Saharan Government, while reviewing the latest developments of the Saharan cause, which it considers positive, expresses its satisfaction with the international consensus achieved at the level of the [words indistinct] committee of the General Assembly, which it considers a valuable achievement. The statement emphasized that this matter constitutes a victory for the Saharan cause and the process of decolonizing the Sahara.

The resolution supported the continuation of the direct dialogue between the Sahara and Morocco, as well as the removal of the obstacles in the way of the efforts of the UN secretary general and the current chairman of the Organization of African Unity, which have prevented the achievement of the joint UN-OAU objective. [page omitted]

Saddam Speaks on Peace With Iran at Ceremony*JN0711215089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT
7 Nov 89*

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has stressed that the Iraqi Army is Iraq's sword in its sheath, pulled out only when duty calls for defending Iraq and the Arab nation. This sword is not used for aggression or for usurping others' rights. In a ceremony in which he awarded al-Rafidayn medals and medals of valor to a group of our heroic fighters in honor of their great courage in defending the honor and dignity of the nation against the racist Iranian enemy, the president said: There is nothing in our ideology to make us deviate from the policy of peace or follow the road of evil. However, others should not delude themselves into thinking that they can, by force or pressure, usurp any of Iraq's rights, by even so much as a stem of a rose.

His excellency added: In an extremely polite manner and by uncontroversial steps, we have shown from the first day of the war that we wanted peace. The Iranians have to prove that they want peace by taking practical steps and by daily conduct that matches their verbal slogans. Following is the text of President Saddam Husayn's speech:

It has been a long time since we last met with the fighters—a meeting to honor the fighters for their achievements, reflected in sacrifice, honesty, exertion, and loyalty to the homeland. Although this meeting comes late, rights are never lost because of the passage of time. [passage omitted]

Before meeting with you, an official told me that a representative of a great power met with an Iraqi national. The Iraqi began to criticize the behavior of this representative's country on some issues. He criticized that country because it acts against Iraqi economic projects in various parts of the world, trying to hinder them—and I do not say sabotage them, because it is difficult for anybody to sabotage something belonging to us. The representative of the big power asked: I want to ask you: What you are doing with such a big Army? The representative of this country forgot that only one year and a few months have elapsed since the war ended, and that the Army reached this size due to the long war, toward which some took the position of spectators, and others tried to fan the flames.

Our answer to this is that we want this big Army so that no one can come and tweak our moustaches or pull our beards, and so that we can cut off the hand that tries to do this. This is all we want; we do not want to attack anybody, and we do not have ambitions outside Iraq. As you see, we are wearing civilian clothes; we are peaceful people. We want people to live in peace and dignity, and we want peace and dignity for ourselves. There is no peace without dignity, and no dignity without a protected homeland; and there is no pride without firm and clear rights respected by all.

In the next 10 years, many things will happen in the world, but these will be accompanied by two major events: First, a decline in oil resources of some super- and large powers, and an increase in the world's need for oil. Because its oil resources are declining, the United States will be among the countries whose oil purchases from the Middle East, specifically from the Gulf, will increase. So far, oil has been the cheapest source of energy for scientific and technological development in this age.

The other major circumstance is that the Communist countries will be busy revising their ideology, methods, and social, economic, and cultural structures. These two phenomena will have serious implications for our region, and this requires vigilance from us all. Those who turn the other way in the next 5 years risk losing part of their coats. That is, looting will increase during that period. Regarding ourselves, we are like a man who has recovered from the measles. We will not catch the disease again, but we must say this particularly to our brothers in the region.

This Army is for defending Iraq and the Arab whose moustache is tweaked as well as the Arab who wants us to support him and whom we believe has a rightful claim to that support. We will not hesitate to respond to our pan-Arab duty, and we will carry out our duty without risking an adverse impact on our national circumstances. Thus, you may reassure this great power that our large Army is not for aggression. However, they must reassure us and produce evidence that providing Israel with the technology that enabled it to produce the nuclear bomb, not to mention the joint projects between them and Israel to produce intercept missiles, and the transfer to Israeli territory of part of the reserve they need for a global war, are not directed against the Arabs—against their security, dignity, and interests. They must reassure the Arabs that they have a firm policy to curb Israel's destructive, aggressive, and evil inclination against our brother strugglers in the occupied territories, who are fighting to regain their historical and inalienable rights and to shake off the yoke of occupation.

There is a story which, even though it does not apply to our situation can be told for its lessons. They used to tell us this story when we were young children. I do not know if they still still teach it now. The story goes that a wolf asks a lamb: Why have you muddied my water? He asks this of the lamb, who is very far away. They seem to believe that all rivers are like the Tigris and the Euphrates, with the wolf at the top of the river and the lamb at the bottom.

This comparison does not apply to our state, the lamb. But the expression of the wolf applies to them. Many people stood happily by watching those insolent Iranians who harbor every evil in their hearts—evil which we hope has decreased by now and will further decrease with time. What they harbored in their hearts blinded them, while many people added fuel to the fire out of a desire to keep it ablaze, as our brothers in Egypt say.

Some want to influence to Iran through the war, through armaments, or through what they claim to be the reconstruction of what the war had destroyed. Others want to tame the Iraqis and do not want them even to breathe. Sometimes, people get thirsty and when they give them water, they give them only a little. This makes them elbow one another to get more water.

We have had our opportunity and we must not lose it, even if the entire world unites against us. We are clenching our fists tightly on this opportunity and no one can unclench them. This is the water of the Iraqis after their subjugation, and after the negation of the Iraqi true role for more than 1,000 years—during which they faced subjugation and the plague killed part of them, and cholera took more. Bilharzia was eradicated not long ago. Is there any person who wants to keep them from this course? I believe no one can do so.

He who wants stability and peace to prevail in the region should become a friend of the people in the region. Iraq is among those to whom such a person should become a friend and deal with respectfully—not because of what it is now, but because of its valuable past and future.

Your Army, my brothers, is Iraq's sheathed sword, which will be unsheathed when the need arises to defend Iraq and the Arab nation. This Army is not for aggression and usurpation of others' rights. Nothing in our ideology makes us deviate from the course of peace or drives us along evil paths. However, others should not imagine that anyone can usurp anything from Iraq by force or pressure, not even a stem of a rose.

The Army is conducting exercises and we are busy with reconstruction. The Army is being trained so that one man becomes like three. We want one to be equal to three. If one is not equal to three, he will not be up to the standard of the war, but only above the previous technical standard. The theory of the superpowers says the stronger we are, the more capable we are of ensuring peace. If they want to remove this theory from the world, we will remove it as well. Let them remove it first from the world. If there is a new theory that says when mankind is weaker it is more likely to achieve peace, such a theory should apply to everyone. Let those who possess nuclear teeth in our region apply it first. A branch belongs to the trunk. Those who created Israel should apply this theory to it. Let them take out its aggressive teeth. For peace to be achieved between us and Iran, God willing, reason needs to prevail in Iran to achieve a durable and final peace, because it is in the interest of us, them, and the region to achieve peace.

When someone follows a path and goes nowhere, he should try another path. There are two paths: war and peace. The path of war was tried by our friends in Iran. Now they should try the path of peace. After the cease-fire, we have become friends, unless they prove otherwise. A friend should be truthful, avoid evil-doing, and aim for the good of his friend. Anyone who avoids evil-doing and wants good for Iraq will become our

friend. Anyone who does not shun evil-doing and wishes Iraq ill, is not our friend. [passage omitted]

God be thanked and praised for the victory and stability. God willing, the stability will turn into a durable and firm peace between us and Iran. For our part, you know, from the first day of the war we said we wanted peace. A long history and unprovocative steps prove that we want peace. In the past we said that Iran operated under special circumstances because there was an elderly man who accepted no discussion. But now those in Iran are supposed to be discussing things among themselves and to accept discussion. When they passed through their special experience [the death of Khomeyni], we chose to leave them until they had arranged matters and settled down, to give them an opportunity to see matters through different glasses. This opportunity has been given to them, and it is now up to them to prove to the Iraqis, not through words alone, that they want peace. Words alone are not enough to prove that any of the two parties who have been engaged in an 8-year war wants peace. Practical steps and observable behavior should be linked with the slogan, "We want peace." [passage omitted containing indistinct portions]

Daily Cited on 'Punishing' Syria on Lebanon

JN061111289 Baghdad INA in English 1015 GMT
6 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov 6, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad demanded punishing the Syrian regime of Hafiz al-Asad for its violations of the pan-Arab security and abnormal behaviours in inter-Arab relations.

A daily article here today said the Arab nation was yet to find a means for terminating the crime of Hafiz al-Asad in Lebanon despite the fact that this means was very clear.

It added that efforts had failed in forcing Hafiz al-Asad to withdraw his forces from the Lebanese territories immediately...but after all this does not mean a triumph for the criminal stances of this regime. It means definitely an Arab leniency in adopting a sound and decisive attitude.

Referring to the expansionist greeds of the Iranian regime in Lebanon, the Iraqi daily said this regime moved to assist the Hafiz al-Asad regime and his insistence on continuing occupation of Lebanon and for hope of realizing some gains by consecrating Iranian military presence and deepening sectarian partition of Lebanese ranks.

The daily stressed that the Syrian regime could not yield profit from forcible occupation and oppression in Lebanon...this would intensify hatred and indignation of the Lebanese people and the Arab nation of this regime.

Saddam Husayn Decorates Civilian Officials

JN0711175089 Baghdad INA in English 1715 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, Nov. 7, INA—President Saddam Husayn decorated Mr. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Minister of local government, with the sword of the liberation of al-Faw, the town of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory, of the first grade in appreciation for the efforts exerted by the ministry's staff and for his role in supervising and field guidance and his high keenness to carry out the duty.

President Husayn also decorated Mr. Tahir Muhammad al-Hassun, minister of housing and reconstruction with the sword of liberating al-Faw, the town of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory of the second grade in appreciation for the efforts of the ministry's affiliates and for his role in supervising and field guidance in reconstructing the town of al-Faw.

President Saddam Husayn also decorated Mr. Khalid 'Abd-al-Mun'im Rashid, mayor of Baghdad, with the sword of liberating al-Faw, the town of sacrifice and the gate of the great victory, of the second grade and with the Rafidayn order, of the second grade and civilian type in addition to granting him the key of Basra of the first grade for the northern gate in appreciation for the efforts exerted by the staff of Baghdad Mayorality in the campaign of constructing the city of Basra and reconstructing the town of al-Faw and in appreciation for his efforts in supervision and field guidance.

During the decoration ceremonies, president Saddam Husayn said that the traditions of work are as good as those of fighting and the brave men. He said that the position of the faithful and sincere work which is intended for building, in terms of history and the practical effect, is not less than the position of the heroic performance and high sacrifice in defence of Iraq and of the building.

President Husayn congratulated the decorated personalities and said that we wait for further development in terms of quality and quantity from them as well as from all the Iraqis in all fields.

He asked them to convey his excellency's greetings and those of the leadership to all those who participated in constructing Basra and in reconstructing al-Faw, and to tell them that these medals, swords and keys were carried on behalf of them by those decorated.

The decoration ceremonies were attended by Mr. 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice-chairman of the Revolution Command Council, members of the Revolution Command Council Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy premier, Mr. Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'Ruf vice-president, Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi deputy premier, and Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Saddam Cables Gorbachev on National Day

JN0711114589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Nov (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has sent a cable of congratulation to Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and to Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, on the occasion of the USSR national day.

The cable reads: On the occasion of the USSR national day and anniversary of the October revolution, we, on behalf of myself, my comrades, and the Iraqi people, are pleased to send you and the friendly Soviet people the warmest congratulations and wishes.

On this occasion, we affirm our concern for promoting the existing ties of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the USSR based on the treaty of friendship and cooperation between our countries with whatever serves the interests of our two peoples and promotes peace, security, and stability in our region and the world. We wish you health and happiness, and the friendly Soviet people continuing progress and prosperity.

Arens Informs Baker About Acceptance of Plan

TA0711151889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has called his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, on the phone and reported to him on the Inner Cabinet's decision to adopt his plan. Secretary Baker expressed satisfaction with this. The two then discussed the next stages of the peace process.

Our correspondent in Tokyo, Ya'ir Stern, reports that Mr Arens arrived in Japan on an official visit today. Tomorrow Arens will tour Japan's science center and will then be hosted by the Jewish community. On Thursday he will confer with Prime Minister Kaifu and with Foreign Minister Nakayama.

Shamir Vows Israel Will Not 'Commit Suicide'

TA0711201489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said tonight that Israel would not commit suicide and would not agree to a Palestinian state in Eretz Yisra'el. The prime minister said that if such a thing happened it would lead to Israel's demise. Mr Shamir spoke in Jerusalem. He also said that internal compromises are preferable to concessions to outsiders. Our correspondent Hanan 'Ezran reports:

[Begin Shamir recording] There is a limit to the risks we are prepared to take. On the basis of our own historical experience and knowledge of the situation in the Middle East, we told ourselves, the Arabs, and the entire world that a Palestinian state in Eretz Yisra'el will never arise. The Arabs—those who are wise and educated—also know that if we were to take that route it would be a path to destruction, incarceration, decline.

The State of Israel has no reason in the world to commit suicide, quite the contrary. The slogan we hail among the entire Jewish people in Israel and abroad is national unity, despite all the difficulties and the high price we pay for it. [applause] Unity has a price. Sometimes you have to make internal compromises if you wish to maintain unity. You cannot stand firm on each point even if it is important and you believe in it. We aspire to the principle: internal compromises are preferable to concessions to external foes. [applause] That is our way. [end recording]

Shamir Says Meeting With Bush Would Be Helpful

TA0811060689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said the government strives for cooperation with the United States, but will not give way where Israel's security or vital interests are concerned. He was speaking last night at a Likud Histadrut elections rally in Jerusalem. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked him about the chances of achieving a meeting of Israeli and Palestinian delegations in the wake of Israel's reply to the Baker plan:

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I am optimistic as usual. We are facing complicated issues, and we will have to have many conversations and many discussions until we bridge all the gaps, but I hope we will achieve it.

[Katzenell] Prime Minister, will you be meeting with President Bush?

[Shamir] Well, you mean the last statement of President Bush. I have not yet seen the full text, but I will see it in half an hour, I think. Of course, I am going to the United States. I would like to meet the President. I am sure any meeting with him will be very helpful.

[Katzenell] The President gave the impression that he is waiting to hear what Secretary Baker said about Israel's reply.

[Shamir] As I said before, I have not yet seen the full text, the full wording.

[Katzenell] If Secretary Baker will not give all the guarantees which Israel is requesting, or refuses to give them in writing, will Israel still proceed....

[Shamir, interrupting] Well, it is a matter for discussions, you know. [end recording]

'Sources' Expect Bush To Invite Shamir for Talks

TA0811091889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem believe that toward the end of the week, the prime minister will be officially invited to meet with the U.S. president during his visit to Washington.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Secretary of State Baker is expected to return from Australia today. He will meet with President Bush tomorrow and will brief him on progress made in the implementation of the five-point plan. It appears that a decision will be made in this meeting to invite Prime Minister Shamir to meet with President Bush.

It is believed in Jerusalem that the meeting will take place also owing to the pressure exerted on the administration by U.S. Jewish organizations.

Our correspondent notes that the prime minister will leave for the United States, where he is to participate in the convention of Jewish federations, even if he is not invited to the White House.

Peres Hopes Talks Will Begin in 'Few Weeks'

TA0711161689 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] We must not conduct negotiations like commercial haggling. Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said this afternoon. Peres hopes that Israel will begin a dialogue with the Palestinian delegation within a few weeks. Peres toured the north. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz was there:

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] Shim'on Peres says that the Inner Cabinet vote proves that the Alignment was responsible for leading to yet another step in the direction of peace. It is doubtful whether without our steadfastness we would have reached such a vote, Shim'on Peres said. He said the alternative presented by several Likud ministers only will perpetuate the conflict.

[Peres] There was a Jordanian option, which they rejected; now we have been left with the Palestinian side. What do they want, words, arguments? A state must weigh the various real alternatives. Each option contains problems, nothing exists without problems. We suggested one alternative and operated accordingly. If they suggest a different alternative, we will discuss it with them. If the alternative is a perpetuation of the conflict, then I believe it is not an alternative.

[Horowitz] Shim'on Peres suggested to the Likud ministers to learn from the Labor Party how to be unified on the political issue.

[Peres] When we drafted our points we took into consideration what is feasible and what is not. We did not suggest anything just for the sake of it because somebody suggested that we should look tough. We have seen what has been the outcome of such toughness. In my view, it is preferable for Israel to appear as a country motivated by policy rather than commerce. [end recording]

Editorial Analyzes PLO 'Dilemma' on Baker Plan

TA0611134689 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
6 Nov 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Palestinian Decision—At a Crossroads"]

[Text] The Israeli Inner Cabinet's approval of James Baker's modified plan came after the U.S. State Department confirmed that its efforts to establish peace in the Middle East are not aimed at forcing Israel to hold direct talks with the PLO. This confirmation was made to "assure" Israeli officials that their acceptance of Baker's plan does not mean that their positions will be overlooked.

Hence, Israeli "acceptance" of Baker's plan was tied to preconditions undertaken by the U.S. side. Thus, as far as Israel is concerned, obstacles to launching talks about holding proposed Palestinian elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip have been removed, but the curtain has still not come down on the Israeli side. There exists a "Likud" objection represented by Ministers Sharon, Moda'i, and Levi, who are challenging Prime Minister Shamir's authority and who are going as far as trying to topple him inside his party!

As for the other side, the PLO is facing a dilemma on whether to accept or reject Baker's proposals and the Israeli election plan. There is U.S. and Egyptian pressure on the PLO to accept the Shamir and Baker plans, as has

become clear at the recent Executive Committee meetings in Cairo. There is internal pressure by some organizations to reject the plans. The Palestinian leadership is wavering between acceptance and rejection at a time when the world is awaiting its decisive decision. The U.S. State Department, for its part, is called upon to give guarantees as a means for advancing the peace process. Even though the PLO may be excluded in the initial stage, the United States should undertake for the PLO to have a role in the final settlement. But the question that arises continually is: Will the PLO be able to convince Palestinian faction leaders to accept these plans and their implementation?

We are still at the start of the road. This road is complicated and extremely dangerous for the Palestinians. Will the Palestinians really be able to trust U.S. diplomacy? The United States long ago lost its credibility in the eyes of the region's nations in general and the Palestinians in particular. It is difficult to talk about "trust" in this climate. Moreover, Washington has never committed itself to the principle of "land for peace" or to implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Palestinian leadership is facing a hard choice. If it rejects the plans, public opinion will accuse it of not being serious enough to enter into a settlement process with Israel. If it accepts the plans, this will pose a danger to the unity of the Palestinian ranks represented by various currents within the PLO cadres.

In the framework of this perception, we, the Palestinian people inside the occupied territories, must speak our minds and provide support for the PLO leadership in its decisionmaking. Are we ready to enter into a dark tunnel without knowing where it will lead, or should we categorically reject the principle and not take a chance on the unknown?

The plans put forward stem from the step-by-step approach aimed at partial solutions, because Israel rejects a comprehensive and all-out settlement and is trying to carry out its plan of granting the Palestinians self-government. We, however, know what we want, but should we wait to obtain what we want and reject that which has been proposed to us? The answer to such questions is difficult, especially when today we are standing at a crossroads!

Paper Warns Against Underestimating PLO Role

TA0611122689 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
6 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Do Not Underestimate the Palestinian Role"]

[Text] Has the United States, a superpower, budged to Israeli pressure concerning the peace process in the Middle East? Apparently so.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker agreed to introduce changes in his five-point proposal in order to accommodate the Israeli Likud demands and get hardliners to agree to it. Although the changes are "cosmetic," as State Department officials contend, the simple fact that Baker made them, only days after affirming that Israel would have to either take or leave his five points in their original form, certainly damages U.S. credibility as a peace broker. If the United States is unable to hold to principles now, how can it in the future?

At a time when the U.S. government was expected to play a more neutral role in the Middle East conflict in order to convince the Palestinians—without whose approval there can never be a settlement—of the sincerity of the parties involved in the peace process, the U.S. gives in to hardline Israeli demands. Palestinians have been working hard to convince themselves and others who have serious doubts about the U.S. role that the United States may finally be ready to adopt a more assertive stance with Israel and use whatever leverage it has to pressure Israel for flexibility and cooperation in the peace process.

These Palestinian hopes and efforts have once again been dashed. Unfortunately, the United States is not helping the Palestinians believe in its impartiality or sincerity toward their plight. It is doing nothing more than confirming hardline Palestinians' fears that it is working alongside Israel to liquidate their national aspirations for independence and freedom. This is a very serious charge, and it affects the way of thinking of every Palestinian. What is awkward is that the United States and many other nations, in trying to convince Israel that a negotiated solution to the Palestinian problem is in its best interest, are doing their utmost to accommodate Israeli demands, even unreasonable ones. At the same time they are not exerting the least effort to alleviate Palestinian fears or win Palestinian confidence.

This apparently means that the United States and other nations do not care what the Palestinians think or want and do not give them any weight in the peace process. They apparently think that assurances from Israel are sufficient to bring about a settlement. These nations are in for a big surprise.

The facts so far have proven that without Palestinian—and that includes the PLO—approval of any process, there can never be a real settlement. In Camp David, Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty, but the conflict persisted because Palestinian national aspirations were not accommodated. More recently, the United States agreed to open a dialogue with the PLO after it realized that without active PLO participation there would be no settlement. Before the opening of the dialogue, U.S. officials sought Palestinians from the occupied territories who would start negotiations with Israel without claiming a role for the PLO. Their efforts proved futile. They have since learned that PLO approval is essential if there is to be a peace process and a settlement.

These are the facts which should have served as a lesson for all those involved in finding a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. We give them one word of advice: Do not underestimate the Palestinians or the role the Palestinians can play.

U.S. Response Will Determine PLO's 'Next Step'

*TA0711165189 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
7 Nov 89 pp 1, 7*

[Editorial: "Seven Points"]

[Excerpts] In the wake of the Israeli Inner Cabinet's decision two days ago to conditionally accept U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan—a decision that added nothing new to the traditional Israeli position which has been rejected on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels—the Cairo-based AL-AHRAM newspaper revealed yesterday the Palestinian response formulated in the shape of "7 points" posed by the PLO Executive Committee to the U.S. Administration. These points summarize the Palestinian position regarding the question of the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue that has been proposed to be conducted in Cairo. [passage omitted]

This clear perception by the PLO displays the PLO's real and sincere inclination to advance the peace process, which is a desire conforming with the international community's persistent call for convening an international peace conference as the real conduit for ending the conflict. Furthermore, the fourth Palestinian point is consistent with the call by President George Bush, upon his assumption of the presidency, for an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands and his emphasis on implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This stance is the one that will necessarily determine the U.S. position regarding the peace process and provide a strong momentum so that this process will overcome the wall that Israel is trying to erect in front of it.

In light of the wide gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions regarding "Baker's plan," the U.S. role in advancing the peace process becomes very evident. The United States though must not remain a hostage to the Israeli volition. So far, this role has not only failed to prove its fairness but on many occasions has affirmed its blind bias in favor of Israel.

Hence, the U.S. response to the seven Palestinian questions will clearly determine the outlines of the U.S. approach toward the peace process and whether any change has occurred in this approach or it has remained subject to the Israeli perceptions which reject peace. This response will also determine the next Palestinian step toward the U.S. Administration, just as it will induce the international community to bear its responsibilities in advancing the peace process in the region.

Commentator Reviews Theories of NSC's Haas

*TA0811082189 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Nov 89 p B1*

[Commentary by A. Schweitzer: "Not in This Lifetime"]

[Text] Richard Haas, the man in charge of Middle East affairs at the U.S. National Security Council, is supposed to be the father of the theory of maturity. This theory asserts that international conflicts are never solved before reaching a certain degree of maturity—in other words, before the parties have tried all the alternatives and reached the conclusion that it is time to wind things up; it is as simple as that. Haas had the privilege of implementing his theory: When he joined the National Security Council he found Jews and Palestinians tormented by the intifadah, a softened 'Arafat, and an initiative-heralding Shamir. It appears that the U.S. Administration's unenthusiastic involvement stemmed from the discovery at the beginning of 1989 that conditions in the region were ripe. However, the assumption was erroneous: Some day, all these protagonists may yet attain the necessary maturity for the settlement of the conflict, but not in this lifetime.

It is hard to trust 'Arafat's word, but it is entirely possible to rely on Shamir. When he says that Eretz Yisra'el will not be redivided, then, as long as it is up to him, it will not be. The election initiative and the resulting autonomy contradict—in spirit, although not necessarily in formulation—the primary tenet of Shamir's credo. The fate of the initiative since its conception proves that it was a dud from the moment Shamir whispered it in President Bush's ear. The prime minister may have been sincere: Rabin, with his infinitely analytical mind, may have convinced him that there are no contradictions; Rabin—and Bush after him—believed, because this is what they wanted to believe; as for Haas, he saw the culmination of a ripening process. That is to say, they all joined forces the moment the initiative was born, because they believed that a viable creature would emerge.

The believers' hopes were shattered with the arrival of the Likud's constraints convention, whose main significance was that it illuminated the implications of the initiative. Using traditional Likud arguments, Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i opened Shamir's eyes and convinced him that he had been caught in the net spread at his feet by the wily Mapainik [member of the traditional Labor Party], Yitzhaq Rabin. Convinced by the soundness of his rivals' arguments, Shamir caved in. The undignified argument about the extent to which Central Committee resolutions bind Inner Cabinet members was really unconvincing. In this, Shamir's less attractive side was revealed. Afterward, each day reinforced the impression that Shamir is unreliable and that for him, the initiative had been a mistake. And at this point, had the Alignment not been so beguiled by Rabin's analytical charm, and believed instead in the development it was witnessing in the Likud, it would have packed up and bolted the government in order to avoid being charged some day with either naivete or mendaciousness.

When Shamir woke up to the significance of his initiative, there was no longer doubt that he would shake himself free of it as soon as he could. Having made a commitment to President Bush, however, he was obliged

to keep up appearances. This was how he and his helper from the Foreign Ministry, Moshe Arens, were forced into playing hide-and-seek with 'Arafat, based on "who can hide best until the other kills the initiative." Had the initiative been important to Shamir, had he really and truly desired its success—as his and his court attendants' sanctimonious declarations led us to believe—he would not have wished it foiled by the head of the PLO. And it is to be remembered that even from the viewpoint of his negotiations with the Americans, his chances of persuading them of the validity of his reservations would have improved had it not been plain to all his interlocutors that he had long ago wearied of the initiative bearing his name, which was used as a rod of chastisement exclusively by his rivals in his own party.

It is doubtful whether the U.S. Administration—including, and to an even greater degree, those in charge of foreign policy, these very experienced people who are, after all, friendly toward Israel—views 'Arafat and his organization differently than Israelis usually do. Conversely, where the Israeli prime minister and his foreign minister (who, in addition, is a fellow countryman) are concerned, their word is word. On the basis of this bias, which has been nourished over the past 40 years by all Israeli governments to the best of their ability, the Bush administration, which had already acquired a reputation of being irresolute and hesitant, decided to raise its profile on the Middle East issue. They realized in the meantime that Arens does not precisely understand what he is being told in English, and that Shamir is unreliable—as simple as that. At this point, however, they were already stuck in the Middle East imbroglio. Which was why, although the region did not require emergency treatment, and although the United States was laden with problems in Europe, Latin America, on drugs, and whatnot, Secretary Baker has been seen spending his precious time making frustrating phone calls to the Middle East. It seems that the administration would have abandoned its dealings with Shamir, Arens, Meridor, Olmert, Netanyahu, and the various anonymous heroes carrying out miserable Israel's foreign policy, had it not considered it a shame (from the Europeans' point of view, for instance) and a confession of the failure of a policy which is more balanced than that of, say, President Reagan. An international superpower does not like to find itself in such humiliating spots, particularly when created by a protege.

But there is no doubt that the United States will eventually admit to itself that an escape from the diplomatic battlefield is preferable to the continuing torture of negotiations with the Israeli prime minister and his court attendants. One can add that it is of no significance whether Israeli policymakers will swallow Baker's five points. In future developments, Shamir will have endless opportunities to delay or torpedo the negotiations (as will the PLO; however, in the Eretz-Yisra'el context, Israel is the dominant interlocutor, mostly due to its U.S. connection). It is guaranteed that he will not miss even

one of these opportunities. As we said before: Peace may reign some day in the Promised Land, but not in this lifetime.

Insistence on U.S. Guarantees Criticized

TA0611143289 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
6 Nov 89 p 7

[Editorial: "Guarantees for the Insecure"]

[Text] Seven months after coming to Washington, where he publicized his plan for elections in the territories (as well as three additional clauses, as the author will certainly be sure to remind us, although they do not mean anything to anybody without the fourth clause), the prime minister is preparing for a return visit to the U.S. capital with a big prize: He accepts his own plan. In fact, in a brilliant surprise move, contrary to all the dismal forecasts, Shamir has adopted the Shamir plan.

That, in essence, is the real meaning of the political developments along the Jerusalem-Washington-Cairo-Tunis square, and along the two central axes inside Israel: Likud-Labor, Shamir-Sharon. Only those who love fine print—whose numbers are dwindling even in the State Department, where officials are becoming increasingly tired; and among media and academic circles who follow the Middle East process—are still interested in the details of Shamir's 4 points, Mubarak's 10 points, and Baker's 5 points, which trade each other off, overlap, and complement each other, all to involve themselves in clarifications whose real purpose is to make things as murky as possible.

The basic question on the agenda, which was there before and remains there now, is whether the Israeli Government is prepared to bear responsibility for ending the process, or whether Shamir is prepared to leave that job to the PLO and at the same time keep the Labor Party in his government. The answer, finally wrrenched from Shamir yesterday—with pressure from Baker and Peres, encouragement from Arens, and prodding from Sharon and associates (with whom Shamir does not differ so much on substance, but is unwilling to yield to their challenges)—is affirmative, although with reservations. It seems that the shortest route to Washington passes not only between these points, but also between two guarantees.

The aftermath of the argument over the term "subject to" [bekafuf le]—Menahem Begin would have said that a Jew cannot be subject to anything—attests to the seriousness of the entire controversy. Israelis are supposed to conduct a dialogue with Palestinians: This is how the move is expected to begin, although each of the parties (and the components within each party) foresees a different conclusion. The gradual dissolution of the need for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue stemmed both from Egypt's difficulty in recruiting the PLO for this opening, and—even before that—from Shamir's withdrawal from his initiative.

The demand that the Bush administration provide Israel with a guarantee that if the PLO is introduced into the Cairo meeting through the window, Israel will be able to exit at once through the door without running the risk of U.S. anger—because this is the significance of the ridiculous insistence on "guarantees"—reflects more than anything else the little trust Shamir and his ideological allies have in their power and soundness of argument. If this development was not a simplistic maneuver aimed at convincing Bush that if he does not wish to be involved in an overt conflict with Israel at a later stage, he had better not supply these guarantees—then this is an odd instance of self-deprecation.

Rather than ask others for guarantees—even those who either sit in the White House, or aim to get there, as is the case with the ambitious politician, Jim Baker—Israel itself must guarantee its security. This security will be achieved through peace and the IDF's continued growth. Therefore, we must take advantage of as many resources as possible—including the United States—instead of wasting them in vain and petty maneuvers of a transient nature.

King Husayn's Call for Peace Talks Questioned

JN0311204289 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1435 GMT 3 Nov 89

[“Observation” by: ‘Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Strangely enough, Jordan's King Husayn has of late been repeatedly calling for convening the international Middle East peace conference. It is strange that King Husayn should be doing this. This is because the international conference notion, which the Arabs once clung to so tightly, was a waste of time and effort and bogged the peace process down for 3 years and, ultimately, led it to a dead end.

If the Arabs were, at one time, so enamored with the international conference notion, they agreed on the principle itself yet disagreed on the conference's points of reference and the candidates who would participate. Nor did they agree on the makeup of the Arab delegation or the mode of their representation: Will the Arabs go as a single team? Will there be a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or will each be independently represented? In any case, there can be no denying the following fact: No international conference held to address the Arab-Israeli dispute ever fulfilled its expectations. If anything, they amounted to fruitless exercises and lost opportunities to achieve peace.

Hence, King Husayn's recent attempts to promote the international conference idea again, are, so to speak, exercises in breathing life into the dead or, at least, disinterring them. King Husayn's repeated calls for the international conference are made all the more strange by their timing. His call comes when international efforts to promote the Israeli peace plan and the proposed elections for the [West] Bank and the [Gaza] Strip are going through an extremely delicate stage. The question

therefore arises as to whether King Husayn is not out to torpedo these international efforts, or whether he is afraid of the possibility of the Israelis and Palestinians arriving at an understanding to work out the problem.

Tanker, Captain Allowed To Sail From Egypt

*TA0811082889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 8 Nov 89*

[Text] The tanker Nyeta will leave for Israel today under the command of Captain Yosef Tzvi. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports that the tanker was allowed to sail following a concerted effort made by the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and the Foreign Ministry here.

It was agreed last night that the service company that owns the vessel would guarantee that the captain will appear in al-Tur on 5 December, when his trial is to be resumed.

Today the Nyeta will complete loading oil in Egypt, and will sail for Israel immediately afterward.

Jerusalem School Closed for 3 Days After Riot

*TA0611095889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0930 GMT 6 Nov 89*

[Text] The (Dayr al-Khitab) School in the Abu-Tor neighborhood of Jerusalem was closed for 3 days this morning on police orders. This followed a riot staged by the schoolchildren this morning. During the riot, they blocked a road and threw rocks at the police. A police unit used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the rioting schoolchildren. This report was filed by Yaron Toren, our police affairs correspondent in Jerusalem.

Chief of Alternative Information Center Jailed

*TA0711111189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] The Jerusalem District court has sentenced Mikha'el Warszawski-Mikado, director of the Center for Alternative Information, to 20 months in jail and 10 months suspended.

This morning, the center was found guilty of providing printing services to George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, but was cleared of supporting it. The center also received a fine of 10,000 shekels.

Mikha'el Warszawski and his attorney, Le'a Tzemel, intend to appeal to the High Court. This was reported by our legal affairs correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack.

Gaza's Al-Saftawi Permitted To Visit Cairo

*TA0711180389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1700 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] The head of the Civil Administration in the Gaza Strip has permitted As'ad al-Saftawi to go to Cairo. Our correspondent Hasan Abu-Zayid reports that Brigadier General Arye Ramot, the Civil Administration head, tonight conferred with al-Saftawi and Zakariya al-Agha,

both Gazans, who have been mentioned as candidates for the Palestinian delegation. Al-Saftawi is due to leave for Egypt tomorrow.

Settlers' Unit To Serve in Jordan Rift Valley

*TA0711203489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] The company made up of settlers in the reserves from the Binyamin District will be deployed in the Jordan Rift Valley. Officers in the company say that it was drafted at the start of the week to serve in Samaria, but an order was received today to transfer it to the Jordan Rift Valley. In interviews with our correspondent Moti Amir, Judaea and Samaria settlers protested the move and called it capitulation to political pressures.

In response, official army sources said that the deployment of companies was decided according to the army's needs and based on their suitability for the activity. The sources stressed that each unit acts according to IDF [Israel Defense Forces] orders, and that the army does not report the deployment of the companies or the considerations taken into account when deciding where to deploy them.

Newspaper Updates Casualty Toll From Uprising

*TA0811094289 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE
in Hebrew 8 Nov 89 p 8*

[Report by Orit Zerubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 6 November, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 552 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. This figure includes casualties of IDF soldiers' fire only.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinians killed stands at 657.

Palestinian sources, however, report 796 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:

- 579 killed by IDF and settlers gunfire;
- 82 dead from asphyxiation;
- 54 dead from beatings and electrocution;
- 81 dead from other reasons.

Qalqilyah Resident Shot Dead By Border Police

*TA0711110589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1030 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] A resident of Qalqilyah was killed in the course of Border Police activities in the town this morning. Official military sources told our territories correspondent 'Ido Shargil that after the resident attacked a border policeman, the latter fired a rubber bullet hitting the resident in the chest. The army clamped a curfew on Qalqilyah.

Our correspondent adds that 10 masked locals were detained in the course of the Border Police operation in Qalqilyah.

Husayn Praises King Fahd on Lebanon Efforts

JN0711204089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone conversation this evening with Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. They exchanged views on a number of general political Arab issues. His Majesty King Husayn expressed his appreciation of the great efforts made by King Fahd and the Arab tripartite committee to solve the Lebanese problem—the efforts that led to the current relaxation in Lebanon and that enjoy the support of Arab and international opinion. The custodian of the two holy mosques wished His Majesty King Husayn success in leading Jordan toward further progress and prosperity.

UN Recognition of Lebanese President Urged

JN0611095589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
6 Nov 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Lebanon needs an International Boost"]

[Text] In spite of all sincere efforts by Arab and international governments to accommodate General Michel 'Awn and win him over to the side of the al-Ta'if Accord, he is maintaining his hostile stance on that internationally accepted agreement and engaged in questionable tactics to abort what was painstakingly negotiated and agreed upon. By rejecting the election of Rene Mu'awwad as president by the Lebanese parliament, 'Awn has reached the end of the line and exhausted the patience of all parties including his natural allies and supporters. His latest moves reflect his desperation and show that once he is cornered there is no limit to where he will go to frustrate the will of the international community, including that of his own people and supporters. In this sense, General 'Awn has become a maverick working against international norms and standards. Still, not much can be done to change his obstinate views on what is best for Lebanon and the Lebanese people. The only sensible thing left to do was of course simply to ignore him and his declarations and to move on with the job of officially adopting the al-Ta'if Accord and electing a new Lebanese president through whom the people of Lebanon can unite.

As General 'Awn's credentials as head of government are still contested by more than one side, and any proclamation emanating from him will naturally be contested as well. The fact that General 'Awn chose to supercede the decision of the parliament, which is, relatively speaking, the most legitimate representative of the Lebanese people still in existence, shows the general's utter contempt for the will of his own people. Such drastic steps by General 'Awn will further isolate him in the regional as well as the international arenas which, in turn, undermines his authority, or whatever is left of it after the election of a new president Sunday [5 November].

What constitutes legitimacy in the final analysis is what the governments of the world decide to do. If the

governments of the world bestow recognition on the new government as they seem posed to do, and the United Nations follows suit by adopting a formal decision by the U.N. Security Council accepting the decisions of the parliament, then there is nothing that General 'Awn can do to stop the legal and political effects of such judgments. Recognition of governments is essentially a political act that acquires legal effect once that recognition becomes universal. Thus the road to salvation in Lebanon is to have the U.N. play its part immediately by extending recognition to the new president and his government.

New National Information Strategy Formulated

JN0711121889 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
7 Nov 89 pp 1, 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Ministry of Culture and Information Monday released the text of a new seven-point national information strategy which reflects the country's perception of issues related to the press, information services, and cultural institutions. The strategy also outlines Jordan's regional and pan-Arab policies with special focus on the Palestine issue.

The text, presented by Minister of Culture and Information Nasuh al-Majali to representatives of the local media and various information services in Jordan, is based on directives by His Majesty King Husayn to the government of al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir.

The first point in the strategy focuses on the role information and media services in Jordan should play to serve the society. "Information," it said, "is a social message influencing society and the behaviour of citizens in various respects. For this reason, the information message should interact with the society and thus it should have a specific objective."

The strategy stresses the right of all people to have access to necessary information and emphasises the two-way informational message involving the sender and the receiver so that the spirit of modern democracy, and credibility of informational services can be maintained.

There is going to be a drastic change in various programmes in radio and television stations to cope with the requirements of the modern age, it said. There would also be units specialising in receiving processing and responding to the public's views about various issues, it added.

The second point of the strategy concerns Jordan's experiment and its regional stands. According to the strategy, Jordan's policies are based on the concept and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which call for unity among Arab countries.

"For this reason," it said, "Jordan, despite its meagre resources and capabilities, is striving to achieve integration with other Arab states through bilateral agreements and the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC)."

The strategy pointed to the fact that "the Jordanian family, which comprises citizens of the badia [bedouin areas] and urban regions, has been augmented by waves of Palestinian migrants and is altogether moulded into a modern pluralistic state with a unique social character."

"Despite the decision to sever ties with the West Bank," the strategy pointed out, "the special relationship and the strong bondage between the two peoples on both banks of the River Jordan can never be disrupted."

The decision, it noted, was only designed to enable the Palestinian people to promote their struggle to regain nationhood and establish their own state in Palestine.

The strategy also underlined the fact that the Hashemites, in their drive to implement the principles and goals of the Great Arab Revolt, adhere to pan-Arab unity and strive to defend all parts of the Arab World threatened with external danger.

"One of the most important points emphasised in the strategy under this point is the religious tolerance in the country. Jordan, the strategy said, is a country embodying different religions and faiths and is in word and deed a tolerant united family of citizens in urban, rural and badia districts. All religious directives and teachings should be based on this fact and there can be no room for transforming religious and cultural teachings into political party-like instructions or exploited by a fanatic religious group. "Islam embodies the concept of tolerance and is based on sublime values which do not condone extremism and which offer tolerance and respect to other religions and groups," the strategy added.

The third point concerns the various plans within the information services and the press. According to the strategy, the information message should be useful to the public, be it through television, radio or newspapers. Messages should be clear and objective and devoid of all forms which aim to win sympathy, it said.

New sets of regulations will be issued to regulate work in the information services in a manner that would provide for the training of cadres, processing public views and interacting with the man in the streets," [no opening quotation marks as published] it said.

The fourth point concerns the information atmosphere. In this context the strategy said that laws concerning publication and press will be modernised along with all regulations concerning the Jordan Press Association, and control over radio, television and video and cinema. Local journalists will be given access to all information so that they can help convey the information message to the public and all journalists will be treated with due respect, said the strategy.

The fifth point concerns the domestic affairs and relations between local information services among themselves and between them and Arab and foreign services.

The strategy gives special attention to the projects conducted by the private sector and calls for maintaining strong relations with Jordanians living abroad.

The sixth point concerns publications, booklets and cultural activities and other programmes conducted by the official information services, while the seventh point dwells on cultural activities by various intellectuals, artists and others. Incentives for distinguished cultural work will be offered and everything possible will be made to remove all barriers between intellectuals and the government, the strategy explained. It said that information services would be employed to benefit cultural activities in all fields.

Communist Leader Responds to Economic Criticism

JN0711112089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Nov 89 pp 28, 26

[Letter from Dr Ya'qub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party and candidate in the 8 November parliamentary elections, to the chief editor of AL-RA'Y]

[Excerpts] Esteemed editor in chief of AL-RA'Y: Greetings. Pursuant to the freedom of publication, I kindly request the publication of the following reply, and in the same place, to Dr Fahd al-Fanik's article, which was published on 23 October 1989 in the "Highlights" column under the headline "The IMF and Election Slogans."

The writer of the article said: "Without trying to prejudice the election campaign of Dr Ya'qub Zayadin, whom we respect and revere, we say that we are against any slogans that undermine the readjustment program and discredit the IMF before the uninformed layman." Yet, he considered mere discussion of this issue as an irresponsible stand that includes outbidding and an attempt to throw wrenches in the gears of the readjustment program simply to win a few votes. Since the writer of the article has gone as far as to attack anyone who discusses the agreement with the IMF, and consequently assailed my person, openly mentioning my name, and to consider mere discussion of this issue as an irresponsible stand that includes outbidding and an attempt to throw wrenches in the gears of the readjustment program simply to win few votes, I found myself compelled to reply to him.

To begin with, I regret the tone of this dialogue. Dr al-Fanik allowed himself to speak against those who object to the agreement with the IMF. In addition, showing no modesty, he expresses his opinion as if he is the only person who knows the truth and stands on the peak of the pyramid of knowledge and of defending the homeland. However, he claims that those who disagree with him are fanatics, taking into consideration that he views the implementation of the program as a matter of life and death.

In fact, we are calling for the cancellation of the economic program agreed with the IMF. We also call for

becoming part of the world movement, which is expanding everyday, to reach a just solution to the Third World debt crisis. These debts have reached \$1.3 trillion, 90 percent of which was spent on goods purchased from creditor states. If these goods had not been purchased in the seventies and early eighties, the capitalist world's centers would have suffered the worst economic crisis this century. On the other hand, we would like to draw attention to the fact that the IMF deals with the debt crisis as if it was caused only by the domestic policies of the indebted states. This is a grave mistake, for the most important causes of the debt and development crisis in the developing countries are the repercussions and reflections of the international economic situations. This means that the deterioration of the situation in the developing countries has basically resulted from the practices of the advanced capitalist states. We say this without trying to absolve the indebted states from the responsibility for what took place. The two major causes of the debt crisis and its aggravation are the drop in prices of the developing countries' exports and the deterioration of the trade exchange conditions, as well as the increase in interest rates. The IMF conditions totally ignore the existence of any external factors in the debt crisis. [passage omitted]

Current and tangible experience proves that the implementation of the IMF conditions regarding the rescheduling of foreign debts has increased the number of poor people and aggravated poverty in the states that have implemented them. The readjustment programs also have failed because they did not resolve the major issues in the economies of these states. This is in addition to the fact that these countries have suffered and are suffering from financial, monetary, and economic imbalance. The annual report of the World Bank for 1989 indicates that long-term readjustment loans were granted to approximately 60 developing countries during the eighties. However, the results were very limited and did not rise to the level of the magnitude of the economic tasks that were confronted.

The issue of foreign debts is no longer an issue limited to debtors and creditors but rather has become an international political issue. There is a growing demand for

solving this problem through reactivating development in the underdeveloped countries so that they will be able to repay debts via the use of development surpluses rather than by impoverishing and subverting themselves. It is well-known that the underdeveloped countries import about 1/3 of the capitalist countries' products. Therefore, impoverishing the underdeveloped countries and reducing their abilities to import will subject advanced capitalist countries to a very serious crisis.

There are several proposals for solving the question of debts, including cancelling all interest, postponing the payment of original debts for several years, and providing the debtor countries with new resources that enable them to resume the march of development. There are other proposals calling for the cancellation of debts of the poorest and least developed countries, interest on debts, and some original debts of the remaining states, and other proposals. Overall, there is a world conviction that debts cannot be repaid according to their present formula. On concluding their conference held recently in Belgrade, the nonaligned countries issued a statement incorporating a number of proposals, which Jordan has ratified since it is one of the countries which participated in this conference, concerning the way to tackle the issue of debts.

We support this statement as well as the proposals incorporated in it. Therefore, we demand the cancellation of the agreement with the IMF and active participation in the international efforts aimed at finding a just solution for this complex international problem. We denounce the IMF's conditions and its way of tackling the rescheduling of debts, whereby all creditors would meet—whether with the Paris Club for national debts or with the London Club for commercial debts—with debtor states on an individual basis and impose on them conditions stipulated by the strong. It is worth noting that Jordan and Egypt's experience in the rescheduling of debts with the USSR can be a vibrant example. The rescheduling of debts was carried out with a long grace period, cancelling or reducing debts, provided repayment came through national products. Thus, debts can be repaid, national production marketed, and job opportunities found for the unemployed.

'Awn Responds to Bush Remarks on Patriarchate

NC0811140389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon
in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn today responded to U.S. President George Bush, who had expressed dismay over the Bkirki incident. He said: It comes as no surprise to us that in his comment about the Bkirki demonstration, President Bush hurries to blow things out of proportion by making the incident appear as if it were a serious partitionist act and jumps to the conclusion that Gen 'Awn's allies were behind this despicable crime.

However, what astonishes us is that Mr Bush takes the microscopic view of the insult to the patriarch, which is denounced by all, as a great partitionist crime, while seeing no call for dismay, concern, or denunciation in the assassinations of His Eminence Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic, and Deputy Nazim al-Qadiri.

Although we do not accuse the American President of blind religious fanaticism, we would like to ask how he could allow himself to blame the incident on Gen 'Awn's supporters and, in anticipation of investigations, prematurely acquit the real culprit before investigations can uncover the apparatus, the parties, and the real motives behind the act.

Our astonishment, however, vanishes when we learn that this policy of blowing minor matters out of proportion and downplaying major issues is the policy which the United States adopts towards Lebanon. It disregards the actual destruction of Lebanon and at the same time deems abhorrent an annoying act, which was provoked to distort the highest possible standard of peaceful expression of free popular opinion.

In his capacity as foreign minister, Gen 'Awn commented on the UN Security Council's call to the Lebanese people, including the Armed Forces, to rally around the president by saying he wishes that the Security Council had restricted its call to urging the forces that occupy Lebanon to leave it. 'Awn also drew the attention of the international community to the fact it must declare the Lebanese people's right to refuse holding a presidential election amidst guns, tanks, and occupation troops, instead of blessing the imposed appointment of a president in violation of the Constitution and convention, and against the people's will.

'Awn wondered: Does any member state of the Security Council accept for itself what is being imposed on Lebanon? Does it agree to allow its popular will to be repressed, its Constitution to be violated, and occupation to be legitimized while the international community merely blesses what is happening?

Israel's Shamir Offers Support To 'Awn

NC0811123289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM today reveals that Israeli enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq

Shamir has sent an oral message to General 'Awn. Citing sources in the Lebanese Forces, the paper says that in his message Shamir expressed his readiness to provide complete military support to 'Awn to confront the recent developments in Lebanon.

Still citing the same sources, the paper notes that an aide to the chief of Israeli intelligence service, Mosad, conveyed Shamir's message to 'Awn and returned to occupied Palestine at dawn last Monday [6 November].

'Awn Holds News Conference at B'abda Palace

NC0711163789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1328 GMT 7 Nov 89

[News conference held by General Michel 'Awn with foreign and local reporters at the B'abda Palace—live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Reporter]...Mr Prime Minister, the most important thing at present is probably that the major powers, the United States and the Soviet Union, Europe, and all the Arab countries, have recognized the so-called president elected in al-Qulay'at. Your Excellency has until now depended on these countries....

['Awn, interrupting] That is not the case. I have never relied on any other country. You and everyone else know that I have never said that I am relying on anyone. A poem has even been written asking on whom I am relying. I am not relying on anyone. The position of these countries has not changed since 1975-76, but the way they dealt with the crisis after I raised it sharply and openly has changed. [Words indistinct] with open eyes and are still following up the plan. The situation has been the same since 1975 to this day. Who says that they have supported us?

[Reporter] Then how do you explain the stand of these countries which support freedom and democracy in the world, these countries which consider themselves to be the platforms of freedom? How do you explain their stand today, starting first with the United States?

['Awn] You should address your question to your foreign colleagues here and ask what they send in their telex messages and what their media say. I am telling you that not all the media in the free world, particularly in the United States, are free. There is a news blackout in the United States on issues that concern us or else biased coverage that exaggerates a bad report, (?blacks out) a good report, or takes only one part of a report so that it has a negative effect on public opinion. It is more a question of manipulation [preceding word in French] than of good reporting. The U.S. stand is still the same.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, you met with the leaders of the Lebanese Front and decided on principles for confronting the coming stage, which will be a difficult one because the countries—I am repeating here what my colleagues have said—which used to back General 'Awn have turned their support elsewhere.

[Awn] I will correct you again. I am telling you that no country has supported Gen 'Awn or the Lebanese crisis. There were dishonest countries that made many statements. They had stands but not practical ones. Why do you want to keep on this point and confuse the Lebanese people? I want to speak to you calmly and tell you the truth. Why do you keep on trying to misrepresent the true situation to the people? The fact is there are no supportive countries. Tell me of any practical stand taken by any country you care to mention. You go ahead and make a quick analysis and tell me that it has supported Lebanon.

[Reporter] France, for example?

[Awn] What practical matters in Lebanese events has it changed?

[Reporter] It has tried but the U.S. Administration prevented it from achieving the desired results?

[Awn] All right. What has this done for me? Some deputies are claiming that they were heroes and fought valiantly in al-Ta'if but in the end they signed the agreement as it was. So what is this heroism? In the end they added their voice to the agreement and ratified it. When a country does not stop at this point and take a stand, then it means that it is not helping. What do we want with verbal commiserations? We want a country that provides a practical political, economic, and military content. Which one of all these countries has translated this into a practical measure? No one in the world could delay the elections for 24 hours so as to reach understanding among the Lebanese. So what is this assistance you are telling me about? I have in fact told you that we are relying on ourselves and our right and are continuing to do so. But the foreign media and some of those who do not make positive statements want to strip the struggling Lebanese people of their self-confidence so that they will not resist when attempts are made to subjugate this people, as is now the case. Now they have attacked us all of a sudden and want to destroy us from within by stripping us of our self-confidence. They want us to believe that we have remained firm because they have helped us. They are liars. No one has helped us and we continue to live because of our resistance. This is the fact and I believe that I and the Lebanese people have succeeded in discovering this truth very simply, thus increasing our self-confidence so as to continue the march and change the state of affairs on this basis.

[Reporter] What about the principles of confrontation? I think you have agreed on certain principles to confront the forthcoming stage, including the expansion of the government.

[Awn] No. Who said this? They are saying these things and publishing them in the media. They say this and that and they say that we agreed or refused, came or went. When someone is attending a meeting and holding consultations, what can he do? There are certain things that he may do, rule out, or postpone. Some say we agreed to this or that, that this or that did not occur, or

that a secret agreement was reached. You can ask me about the substance of the meeting if you want. During the meeting, we agreed on a plan of confrontation, the details of which will not be announced.

[Reporter] Reports are being published that your excellency intends to expand the government and that Dr Samir Ja'ja' is opposed to this. I am telling you details.

[Awn] There are also things that Dr Ja'ja' proposed and I opposed. We discussed issues at length. We studied the advantages and disadvantages of several issues. Certain things were adopted because they have good points and others were rejected because their disadvantages outweighed their advantages. In every working meeting this method should be followed; that is, to put forward ideas and discuss them and then adopt the positive points and dismiss negative ones. Otherwise, all will suffer. You should not think of our work in terms of acceptance, rejection, and dispute.

[Reporter] Your Excellency Mr Prime Minister, following the al-Ta'if meetings, there are no states that support you. There is no doubt that this is a strong point on the level of nationalism, but a weak point politically. Do you believe that with the current balance of power you can change this international balance that is exerting pressure in one known direction?

[Awn] I can wait a little. [Former U.S. Ambassador] Mr Kelly was well-known for a phrase he used to say every time he left the palace here. He used to say wait and see.

[Reporter] Are the forces in East Beirut prepared to support you to the end?

[Awn] You can ask me this question when they leave me.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the current situation in Lebanon is like that in France under the Nazi occupation. What would the De Gaulle of Lebanon ask Petain to do?

[Awn] To start liberating France so that I would join him.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] to visit France to meet President Mitterrand?

[Awn] No. That was a radio question. He asked me if I would like to meet with President Mitterrand, and I said yes, I would like to meet with him. Such a question cannot be answered in the negative.

[Reporter] The French foreign minister said that the French Government will cooperate with President Mu'awwad as long as he works to achieve sovereignty. What is your comment on this French statement?

[Awn] All right, I'll answer you. You are asking me how stands change. You are journalists and, if you analyze this, you will find that I did not say a change in stand. You should analyze this and see for yourselves. I hold an official post and I do not want to impose a position on France. You are better than I in analyzing news.

[Reporter] Gen 'Awn, regarding the recent moves and demonstrations in the free areas, are they merely an ordinary rejection of certain stands or a nucleus of a future people's revolution in Lebanon?

['Awn] I believe that they are the beginning of a revolution. They are not a nucleus but the beginning of a revolution.

[Reporter] We notice that the demonstrations are no longer coming to the palace, but are going to other areas. What is your explanation of this phenomenon?

['Awn] Because I was not here. [laughter] I was looking at the demonstrators. Many people were surprised that I used to walk to the gate and receive them. They wondered why I have not been receiving them recently. Some thought that I was indisposed and others thought that I did not want to receive them. I was with the demonstrators and looking at them without their seeing me. [laughter]

[Reporter] Your Excellency, turning to the issue of demonstrations, can you tell us your opinion about the attack carried out on the Patriarchate seat? What have you to say to his beatitude the patriarch in this regard and does this incident have negative effects on the liberation movement you lead?

['Awn] I believe I declared my stand from the outset. I started making appeals when I received reports about the incident in Bkirki. I appealed to all demonstrators to abide by the civilized and ethical principles which we advocate. I also denounced the incident. I have asked the judiciary to investigate to find out what went wrong. Did the demonstrators express themselves wrongly or did intriguers foment confusion? I must say that there was no need for this widespread propaganda over the Bkirki incident. We have passed through more important incidents. Nevertheless, I strongly denounce the incident, because Bkirki should never close its doors. Bkirki should receive the people. His beatitude the patriarch should be like a father and should receive the people regardless of the situation. This is what I have to say. I will add my strong denunciation of the incident. There is a leader and there are citizens and both must be homogeneous.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] You may ask him later what really happened. It is not important just to photograph broken glass, tiles, or pictures. We should give all sides of the story. We condemn all wrong acts.

[Reporter] Your Excellency, President Mu'awwad said that he will return to Beirut within the next 48 hours to form a national accord government. What would you do if you were asked to join this government?

['Awn] Please do not torture me with such questions. I am not looking for a share in this government. [applause] As far as the issue of the Presidency is concerned, we have no elected president of the Republic. The Chamber

of Deputies is dissolved. This is final and unequivocal. So please do not ask me about this subject.

[Reporter] It has been reported that Abbot Bulus Nu'man is currently trying to bridge the gap between Gen 'Awn and President Rene Mu'awwad. How true is this?

['Awn] It is just a news report. I receive many visitors every day. Many people may cross the contact lines and visit the north, or the west, or al-Biq'a'. Just because someone comes to see me, this does not mean that he has been entrusted with a specific mission. This is absolutely not true.

[Reporter] The election of President Mu'awwad has been welcomed by many countries, and he is scheduled to form a new government. What would your relations be with the ambassadors of those countries?

['Awn] They will define these relations in the first stage, and we will define them in the second stage.

[Reporter] Can I say that there is a president? Can I?

['Awn] No. [laughter]

[Reporter] The former deputies want to return to their homes. Can your excellency protect them from the people's anger or will you place them on trial for treason? Have they been classified as traitors to the homeland?

['Awn] We will resort to legal provisions over this matter. I cannot advise anyone to return now. The law will decide the matter.

[Reporter] Will they be referred to trial?

['Awn] The law...[changes thought] I am not able to do this. I will leave it to the public prosecutor's office to consider the matter and decide the issue.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, a new government will be formed in the western area within days. This means there will be two governments. Will you deal with the new government as you dealt with al-Huss' government, at least regarding the administration of day-to-day affairs?

['Awn] It is all the same. The only difference is that its head used to be al-Huss and now it is Rene Mu'awwad.

[Reporter] What about financial affairs, Mr Prime Minister, and the Central Bank? Employees are now worried about who will be paying them. Who will pay the pensions of those employees who are retiring?

['Awn] This is our responsibility. We will arrange that.

[Reporter] General, you have said that you regard the demonstrations and strikes as the nucleus of a popular revolution. Why then did you call for a resumption of business as usual at the beginning of the news conference? I mean why not let this revolution continue?

['Awn] Sure, but we need a stage of production in order to support the revolution. The ideas are clearly understood. Today there is a clear line between the Lebanon

which died in al-Ta'if and was buried in al-Qulay'at and the Lebanon which was born with you, the Lebanon which is demonstrating and which went out into the streets. This Lebanon needs to live. We must provide milk, sugar, and flour for it. It must produce in order to live. As far as I am concerned, the revolution has taken place. Certainly we might at later stages ask you to express yourselves. However, you must have the energy to do that. This cannot be done unless we have a production capability. We must work now. We must not only get drunk in the streets.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, last Sunday there were reports abroad that Gen 'Awn was the target of an assassination attempt. How true is that?

['Awn] They had arranged the matter, just as usual, just like the stories that occur here. When an incident takes place at the Patriarchate, 1/2 an hour later it is reported in Washington that there has been a rampage at the Patriarchate. When the al-Ta'if agreement was reached, they supported it before we learned its contents. They announce the incident before it happens. An incident was going to happen, but did not happen. They announced it, but fortunately it failed.

[Reporter] Gen 'Awn, we know that revolutions usually erupt against a government. Lebanon's revolution is now perhaps erupting in support of the government. How will this Lebanese revolution develop and how far will it reach? Is it possible for it to extend to the occupied areas?

['Awn] Certainly this free thought cannot be stopped by a combat line. This free thought and action is perhaps one of the causes of the international opposition to us because we are setting a bad example to the Middle East which is ruled by the boot. Why have all people refrained from supporting this movement? Why? Because it is a bad example from the point of view of their own interests. It is very contagious and will not stop at the Lebanese border. When I said that the Middle East will explode, of course I did not mean that I will dynamite it or send people to plant explosive charges. Nevertheless, it is this thought and this action by the Lebanese people that will cause an explosion in the Middle East. As for the regimes which profess to provide guarantees for us now, it is we who will provide guarantees for them in the future.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Yes, good, this means our position is very good. [laughter]

[Reporter] If you were asked to receive delegations to bring your views and those of former Deputy Rene Mu'awwad closer, would you receive them?

['Awn] [laughter] Let him first adhere to the liberation march.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] in his address, he said he is committed to the liberation march.

['Awn] He supported the al-Ta'if document, which encroaches upon sovereignty. Is this not true? Then he took the oath to preserve sovereignty. Explain this to me if you can. How can one support the al-Ta'if document and take the constitutional oath while the Constitution was violated three or four times at the same session? I ask the Lebanese people to look at the situation from this point of view.

[Reporter] Are there any chances for dialogue between you and another party and how could such a dialogue be conducted? By the other party, I mean a Lebanese party...

['Awn, interrupting] What is the hurry? We were talking about gasoline today, and there is still gasoline. Do not worry about the future. What is important is that people should carry on as we are doing in our steadfastness until we achieve our goals. Do not start imagining things. Present the facts to the public. How can you put forth theories? It is like telling a scary story to someone just before he goes to sleep. He will have nightmares. The situation is excellent. Here we are surviving and we will go to work tomorrow. It is not the end of the world. They were thinking that the dissolution of parliament was a leap into the unknown and the failure to elect a president last year was a disaster. When the American ambassador left, they said God save us. If the dollar goes up tomorrow we will die and if it comes down we will get poorer. Do not bring up such tragic [preceding word in English] assumptions to scare people. [Words indistinct] when they received a blow here, the Americans went to Grenada to vent their anger on an uninhabited island. Now they want to see how they can compensate for Panama. They will not be able to. [applause]

[Reporter] Can we conclude from your statements that you reject the political reform article of the al-Ta'if document?

['Awn] I am not rejecting [words indistinct]. I do not want to answer such a question. I dissolved the Chamber of Deputies. The al-Ta'if document is gone. We want a new document now. The al-Ta'if issue is over. We had agreed to some articles in the al-Ta'if document, but since the whole document has collapsed, we need a new one. The articles in the al-Ta'if document's articles which we agreed to are more [word indistinct]. Anyway, the al-Ta'if document has collapsed through lodging a complaint with the United Nations and the dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. What else do you want us to do?

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] to implement a solution in Lebanon in light of the new circumstances?

['Awn] Had it wished to work according to its convictions, it would have relied on the first report and worked according to it. It too was pressured and had its interests. We were hoping it would stop at this point and not act according to a new plan harmful to us. We sought its arbitration but we were treated unjustly.

[Reporter] You dissolved the Chamber of Deputies and set dates for phased elections. What will happen in the meantime? Will you call the electoral committees?

['Awn] Yes, I will call them and will also call the UN observers and the ambassadors of the major powers who were invited to...

[Reporter, interrupting] Thus we can tell the candidates to prepare themselves.

['Awn] Yes.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, what are you going to do about the Syrian presence? How can the general parliamentary elections be held in the other areas where the Syrians are present?

['Awn] This will be easier than a controlled election where 50 or 60 people dropped their ballots in a box. At least the 60,000 who will vote in any particular constituency will not do so under individual supervision and the result will be more correct than when 50 or 60 people were delivered like a package to cast their votes.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the Phalangist Party has taken a stand after the recent developments. Everyone has his own stand. How do you define your current relationship with the influential forces in the eastern area in light of recent developments?

['Awn] It is an extremely important relationship. We are bound together by the principles of the cause which you all know and from which no one can deviate.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

['Awn] Read them and you will know what binds us together.

[Reporter] Are these new or old ones?

['Awn] No, they go back to 1980.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the Army today is the backbone of the present system. There is a military government today in the eastern area and a second government is due to be born in the other area. This new government will appoint an officer to command the Army. Should the new Army commander be from the eastern area, how do you think the Army will deal with him and how will Gen 'Awn deal with him?

['Awn] We are back again with the issue of the Army. I am appointing you the U.S. secretary of state. [laughter] Go and take over. [applause]

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the contacts being made by President Mu'awwad to form the government will include all parties....

['Awn, interrupting] That is all. Your question is over.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, the demonstrations in the eastern area were massive ones and a popular force was placed at your disposal. The strategy since 14 March has

been based on our intrinsic strength. The people are now asking what the strategy is for the coming days.

['Awn] You are asking questions as if you were intelligence organs. [laughter] Who will want to speak about his intentions—about what he wants to do and when—at a news conference? Let us be practical. Questions such as who is giving you ammunition, where are you storing it, will Iraq continue to supply you, from where do you want to buy, and how are you getting gasoline and through which routes, should not be asked. The important thing is whether these things are available or not. We have a strategy. Follow things up and you will discover the events when they occur. A person without a strategy and a lasting and prominent presence would have gone mad if he had had to face the events that have taken place. Many people have lost their heads [words indistinct] but all the houses have remained standing.

[Reporter] For the first time, the Lebanese Front leader is today outside the liberated area [word indistinct] of returning. The Maronite patriarch also prefers to stay in al-Diman until the security situation calms down, as he put it. Rene Mu'awwad is also outside the eastern area. Probably for the first time, the media in the liberated area are not speaking in one voice as we used to see or hear in the past. How do you explain this phenomenon? How can the people [words indistinct]?

['Awn] No, they should not be content with this or that. They should differentiate between the new and the old Lebanon. There is an establishment [preceding word in English] and people are joining or leaving it. Unfortunately, I was told that armed guards have been placed around the Voice of Lebanon radio. The Lebanese hearts protect the Voice of Lebanon. I call on all citizens and on all those who demonstrate to let the Voice of Lebanon say what it wants. [applause]

Let no one fear for freedom. The Voice of Lebanon radio is free to say what it wants. That radio expresses its convictions. It is up to the people to choose. It is true that its technical equipment is more modern than another Lebanese radio station. The people are more accustomed to listening to the Voice of Lebanon. I want free choice. The Lebanese can sort this out. If they fear this radio they can turn it off. The other Lebanese radio, though poorly equipped, may suit their needs better. But I ask that they remove the guards from around this radio station. They must not leave the guards for fear that it may be attacked, destroyed, or burned down. Of course, some sort of protection must remain so that no evil person or intelligence forces can damage it or create a problem. Such a thing may take place as part of a demonstration by an infiltrator. However, let no one fear for freedom in Lebanon.

If all the people leave me of their own volition, I will go away. I have said this to certain radios. They asked me about his beatitude the patriarch and I told them that he chose to leave. I will give an example. They said that I said that the patriarch has to resign. No, I did not say this. I said that when differences arise between the ruler

and his subjects, either the ruler follows the subjects or he quits. I said this in general terms. But media distortion caused this confusion. I have no fear about what the Lebanese people will choose.

[Reporter] Your excellency said that the patriarch chose his exile.

[Awn] I am telling you what happened and what I said. But what the others say is something else.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Awn] They talk too much.

[Reporter] As far as freedom is concerned, how would you define the fate of the deputies of the eastern area?

[Awn] Legal offenses have been committed. Therefore, they should not return.

[Reporter] And if the people reelect them in future elections?

[Awn] Then it will be all right. The people are the source of power. What can I do? The people should amend the laws. If the people reelect them, the laws that apply to the deputies' offenses should be amended or abolished.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, regarding the Voice of Lebanon radio or any information establishment in the eastern area, you said that perhaps this is the beginning of a revolution. What revolutionary wants to hear something that contradicts his views? [Words indistinct] you said we must not protect the Voice of Lebanon. How then can we accept that any action would be committed by an infiltrator?

[Awn] If you want to make something seem more attractive, compare it to something worse. If the Voice of Lebanon fails to meet the people's needs, it will be ignored by the people. This is the principle of freedom that I respect. The other day, this radio was singing the praise of liberation and claimed to be the vanguard of liberation and now it supports the al-Ta'if agreement. This radio should not do this. If the the people want to follow this radio, they can do so. [applause]

[Reporter] Everyone talks about the Voice of Lebanon and no one belongs to the Voice of Lebanon. I am certain that they do not listen to the Voice of Lebanon in the same way we listen to it. They just pick and choose whatever they like to hear, as long as what the prime minister says here can be interpreted differently. These things are conveyed to the prime minister distorted and incomplete. Has the prime minister ever listened to the Voice of Lebanon and has he reached a conclusion about the Voice of Lebanon? We will accept his judgment. But we know the goal of those who convey distorted reports. We also know that the Voice of Lebanon is absolutely not in danger and that it enjoys freedom and that you yourself have raised the flag of this freedom. I hope they will not misinterpret us. The Voice of Lebanon relies on facts and credibility and has always supported freedom and democracy.

[Awn] Regardless of what is going on and as a matter of principle, I support freedom. I have defended it within this framework. I asked the people to be the judge because they will be responsible for the results. I am not afraid because I am for freedom. [passage omitted]

[Munoz, in English] I am Francisco Munoz from Spanish television. You have said you are not ready to talk to the new president. You said that you are not going to negotiate. Does this mean that if you cannot throw the Syrians out of Lebanon the next step is going to be again the war? And the second question is: I would like to know, I have just heard some Christians in Beirut and Juniyah saying that they feel ashamed on the attack on the patriarch. Do you feel the same way?

[Awn, in English] Well I am against what happened against the patriarch. It is against our beliefs and our human values. I do not agree with that. But I think what you have seen in Lebanon is more civilized than you have ever seen in the world—demonstrations of 100,000, or 200,000 people and no incidents. When incidents like that are permitted and especially if there is some mistake where the incidents happened. [sentence as heard] Maybe some agents wanted to have the incidents. Maybe some mistakes from there, from the people in the place, created this incident. So we don't have to judge the whole situation from one incident. You have to see the whole thing.

[Munoz, in English] [Words indistinct] to negotiate with the president if you are not able to pull the Syrians out of Lebanon, does this mean that the next step for you to choose is to go to war again?

[Awn, in English] For us, the president does not exist because the parliament is not qualified to elect a president because it was dissolved before the meeting. Why should war occur if we refuse a solution? Are not we a part of this world, free world, who teaches the democracy and freedom? We are refusing peacefully an imposed solution on Lebanon and we are looking for another one, maybe in better conditions.

[Reporter, in English] This morning, it was noticeable that both stations, the main stations in this area, referred to President Mu'awwad and relegated your doings to the bottom of the bulletins. Are you worried about divisions within the Christian camp on this side?

[Awn, in English] Well if we have to accept the rules of democracy, we have to respect the opinion of the majority. I think I have the majority and I am ruling by it. Why the world asked us to be united all together to face a political act? [sentence as heard] We are united in defense and we have democracy in politics.

[Reporter, in English] In the report this weekend it said that during your meeting with Dr Ja'ja' you asked him to join your government to give it a wider base. Can you tell us if this is true and what Dr Ja'ja' responded to that request?

[Awn in English] We agreed on a plan of [word indistinct] the situation. I cannot give the details. It will be against our interests to tell it now.

[Reporter, in English] What will you now do diplomatically to support your case?

[Awn, in English] Well the first step now is up to the ambassadors; and I will do the [word indistinct].

Patriarch Urges Lebanese To Support Mu'awwad

NC0711182689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr said he hopes that the president will succeed in uniting all the Lebanese people and that there will be one Lebanon, one president, and one government.

After meeting with President Rene Mu'awwad, Patriarch Sfayr urged all Lebanese to rally around the president so that they may be able to uplift Lebanon and return to normal life.

Sfayr, accompanied by a number of bishops, visited President Mu'awwad in Ihdin. President Mu'awwad and Deputies George Sa'adah, Butrus Harb, Pierre Hilu, Auguste Bukhus, Fu'ad Naffa', Shafiq Badr, Mikha'il al-Dahir, Edmund Rizk, 'Uthman al-Dana, and Habib Kayruz received the patriarch.

Sfayr will chair the regular monthly meeting of Maronite bishops in al-Diman tomorrow. According to al-Diman sources, the discussions will center on the attack on the Patriarchate in Bkirki 2 days ago.

Information Bureau Denies Mu'awwad Interviewed

NC0811100389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The Presidential Information Bureau has issued the following statement:

His Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad has not made any statement or given any interview to any newspaper or other information medium. Anything that is broadcast or published does not express his excellency's views unless it originates from him personally or through the Presidential Information Bureau.

Deputies Leave Al-Qulay'at for Paris

NC0711181589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1645 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] A private plane landed at al-Qulay'at airport in the north at 1400 today and later took off. Deputies Michel Sasin, Fu'ad Naffa', Nasri al-Ma'luf, Hamid Dakrub, Albert Mansur, Auguste Bakhus, Nadim Salim, Ilyas al-Khazin, Kazim al-Khalil, Shafiq Badr, and Mahmud 'Ammar were aboard en route to Paris.

Syria's Khaddam Confers With Officials in North

Meets Mu'awwad, Franjiyah

JN0711224689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
2115 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has conveyed President Hafiz al-Asad's congratulations to Lebanese President Rene Mu'awwad on his election as the president of sisterly Lebanon. Khaddam also conveyed Al-Asad's wishes that Mu'awwad would succeed in leading the march of Lebanese national reconciliation, as well as Al-Asad's assertion that Syria will support—as it always has—the march of national reconciliation, while offering the Lebanese president and government every support and backing.

Khaddam arrived in Ihdin today. At 1830, President Rene Mu'awwad received the vice president who conveyed to him the congratulations and greetings of President Hafiz al-Asad and discussed with him a number of issues that concern Lebanon and Syria.

Earlier today, Khaddam visited former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah in Zgharta and conveyed to him President Hafiz al-Asad's greetings. After this meeting, Khaddam made a statement to journalists in which he said: I express my pleasure to be visiting Zgharta and meeting His Excellency President Sulayman Franjiyah, the dear friend and great nationalist. We exchanged opinions on all issues of interest to Lebanon and Syria. It is natural that our viewpoints are always the same and identical. I express my satisfaction and pleasure with the results of the discussions and the meeting held with His Excellency President Franjiyah.

Answering journalists' questions, Khaddam said the discussions dealt with the current situation in Lebanon as well as methods to reinforce the march of national reconciliation—and this is what His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad asked me to convey to His Excellency President Franjiyah.

Khaddam added: We believe that the Lebanese Government, which will be formed by His Excellency President Rene Mu'awwad, will adopt whatever it deems necessary to achieve the unity of the country and to spread the Lebanese state's control over every inch of Lebanon and in every position on the ground. It is natural, he added, that Syria, which has supported and is supporting Lebanon's unity and national reconciliation, would give every assistance the government of national reconciliation asks for in order to spread its authority over every inch of Lebanon. I believe that no one can ignore the Lebanese people's desire for reconciliation and peace. I do not believe that anyone who is hostile to this reconciliation, despite his departure from reason and reality, can continue, because the march of reconciliation will bypass the deviant elements and all those who destroyed the unity of the country and who are now working to destroy the march of reconciliation and unity.

On expelling the Israeli occupation from southern Lebanon, Khaddam said: There are two approaches—the first, reinforcing the national resistance against the Israeli occupation; and the second, the political struggle on the international level to implement Resolution No 425. He said: There are parties and individuals who are harmed by peace and reconciliation in Lebanon, but the will of the Lebanese people and of peace will overcome all obstacles.

Visits With Karami 8 Nov

NC0811095089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0900 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam is continuing his visit to the north. Shortly before 1000 today, he visited Lawyer 'Umar Karami at his house. He was accompanied by Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an and his office director Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali; Brigadier General Sulayman al-Hasan, commander of the Syrian forces in the north; and Lieutenant Colonel Major Muhammad al-Sha'ar.

Lawyer 'Umar Karami and his brother Ma'an held a meeting with Khaddam as soon as he arrived there.

Strike Observed; Protest at French Embassy

NC0711134489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] For the fourth successive day, the eastern areas of Beirut observed a general strike. Shops, schools, and commercial centers closed their doors.

Demonstrators headed for the French Embassy building in Mar Taqla, where they are staging a sit-in to protest the French policy. They carried placards accusing France of abandoning Lebanon. One sign said: Mitterrand has let us down.

Further on Embassy Protest

NC0711160489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1515 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] A strike and demonstrations continued in the eastern area today. Demonstrations and marches were also held in Jazzin and the border areas in the south. One demonstration marched on the French Embassy in al-Hazimmiyah and a delegation of demonstrators met with (Simon Santoni), the embassy's second secretary. They asked the French diplomat to explain how President Mitterrand, who defends human rights, can accept the deception represented by the presidential elections. An embassy representative then read a statement by Ambassador Rene Ala which said that all Lebanese citizens know that they are welcome at the French Embassy. It added that the Paris government has constant knowledge of the various stands and conditions in Lebanon.

The Jazzin area and a number of border villages in the south staged strikes today to show support for General

Michel 'Awn. A large crowd of demonstrators marched from the governor's residence to the house of Deputy Edmund Rizk where they burned tires.

'Islamic Group' Blamed for ICRC Kidnapping

NC0811111689 Beirut AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI
WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 30 Oct 89 p 7

[Text] Security sources in West Beirut have said that available information absolutely rules out the involvement of Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] Fatah—the Revolutionary Council in the kidnapping of the two Swiss nationals working for the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. The security sources went on to blame the operation on the Islamic Group in Sidon.

According to the sources, the accusations levelled at Abu-Nidal's group can be traced back to many reasons, including the wish to settle accounts, the desire to eliminate certain parties from the arena, and a plan to create widespread confusion.

Three weeks prior to the kidnapping of the Swiss nationals, informers in Sidon warned of a scheme hatched by elements who have connections with Iranian intelligence to kidnap foreigners. However, the informers focused their attention on the UNRWA [United Nations Relief and Works Agency], ignoring the ICRC employees.

The sources add that the kidnapping of the Swiss officials illustrated Iranian intelligence's determination to pursue foreigners throughout Muslim areas and prevent them from either staying or leaving. A life sentence in Switzerland against a Hizballah terrorist accused of hijacking a French plane is said to have been an Iranian excuse to kidnap the ICRC officials. Before the French plane incident, Iranian intelligence supervised the training of a group of young Shiite men on kidnapping foreigners and Christians.

The sources contend that Sidon is becoming another pre-1982 Beirut, and that the capital of the south is today regarded as the central point for regional and international intelligence, just as Beirut had been before the Israeli devastation.

Certain officials believe that the kidnapping of the Swiss nationals may be an early warning of a storm of chaos which will hit Sidon, adjacent areas, and other regions in the south.

Lahd Prefers 'Awn's Abdication to New Fighting

NC0811070189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, has voiced concern that clashes may renew in Beirut. General 'Awn should prevent this from happening, even if he has to abdicate power for that purpose, Lahd said.

In an interview aired last night on Middle East Television, Lahd expressed hopes that the new Lebanese president would first expel Syrian forces from Zgharta and Beirut before thinking about going to the south to remove the Israeli occupation. Lahd said his goal is to see the inhabitants of the south living in peace side by side with Israel.

Militiamen Attack UNIFIL Force in South

*NC0811065389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0530 GMT 8 Nov 89*

[Text] The Israeli occupation authorities and their agent militia have escalated their attacks on the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon [UNIFIL]. The latest attack took place yesterday when agent militiamen opened fire at a Finnish contingent in the occupied town of al-Tayyibah.

A UNIFIL patrol was on a road leading to a UNIFIL position on the al-Qunaytirah-al-Tayyibah axis. A motorized militia unit blocked the road to the patrol, prompting UNIFIL to put approximately 70 soldiers supported by armored cars on alert.

The militiamen opened fire at the Finnish force, hitting three armored cars. However, the UNIFIL force insisted that the road be opened. UNIFIL contacted the occupation authorities to withdraw the aggressor militia, which UNIFIL said received its orders from Israel.

After the UNIFIL command in al-Naqurah was informed of the incident, it sent to al-Naqurah a force consisting of 100 soldiers from the various UNIFIL contingents, backed by 11 armored cars, to break the blockade on the Finnish soldiers.

Organization Claims Anti-Syrian Operation

*NC0811094889 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 8 Nov 89*

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has announced that one of its groups ambushed a patrol of the Syrian special units along the al-Bahsas-Corniche al-Bahr road, killing a Syrian soldier and wounding another. The Syrian troops, backed by local parties, later launched a large-scale search campaign and deployed roadblocks in the city's streets.

Security Measures Taken for Media Establishments

*NC0811114689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1030 GMT 8 Nov 89*

[Text] The situation in the eastern area continues to be tense. Lebanese forces personnel and security forces have been seen deployed on the approaches leading to the Voice of Lebanon radio after attempts were made to attack it during the past 2 days.

Observers expressed fear that incidents might take place that would lead to armed clashes.

It has been learned that stringent security measures have been taken as a precaution around two media establishments in the eastern area.

Commentary Says 'Awn 'Must Be Uprooted'

JN0711164889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1230 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, a new era promising salvation and deliverance through constructive dialogue among all Lebanese groups has emerged in Lebanon. In al-Qulay'at, the will of the homeland and life, as embodied in the Lebanese people and their representatives, has triumphed over all other sectarian and factional forces and foreign interference. The aim of these forces and interference was to keep this fraternal country a bleeding wound in the Arab body and a constant threat to Arab security in general, and to the security of its twin brother—Syria—in particular. The underlying purpose of this bizarre situation was to serve the Israeli enemy, which occupies precious parts of southern Lebanon and which acts directly or through agents to deepen divisions and conflict among the Lebanese.

The Arab nation has joined the Lebanese people in their joy over the start of their journey of salvation. It must be said, however, that the road is not free from obstacles and mines. Vigilance and care are needed to foil everything that hinders the consolidation of the military and political relaxation, and to remove all the ploys that the enemy and its tools, which are usurping the B'abda Palace, may use. 'Awn fought the Lebanese people with the weapons of Israel and the Iraqi regime; he proved himself always ready to perpetrate every crime to hold the eastern area hostage—the area on and through which he practices blackmail and terrorism to obstruct the march toward salvation and to extinguish the torch of hope.

The al-Yarza general, who came to fight the Lebanese in a military uniform and with arms given free by the enemies of Lebanon and its people, has proven that he has no military honor whatsoever; he betrayed his oath and trust, and became no more than a rebel officer hiding in B'abda Palace and personally directing a group of ruffians, who lack any ethical or national scruples, to commit acts of gangsterism in the streets of the eastern area—burning, looting, and insulting spiritual and political leaders. He has now become a tool to implement a crystal-clear Zionist scheme. The Lebanese rejected him, so he ended up besieged and isolated in his shelter, awaiting his just punishment by the Lebanese, who, because of him, have lost their sons, brothers, spouses, homes, savings, and who were about to lose their homeland, unity, and future as a result of the false slogans and empty challenges made by him and encouraged by the Zionist authorities.

Thus, it is not inaccurate to describe Michel 'Awn as "Zionized" since he began to implement the Zionist plan after usurping legitimate power through his coup d'état in September of last year. Through his practices over the past 13 months, 'Awn has proven that he deserves this

label and this affiliation. He has always tried to implement the scheme to divide Lebanon and cause its disintegration. 'Awn has shown that he is a good pupil of his Zionist masters, not only in doing all that they ask him, but also in using the same terrorist and oppressive methods that they use against the sons of the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories.

After 'Awn's claims of legitimacy collapsed, and after all masks fell from his face, the truth of his fully Zionized position and his practices has been revealed. These are hostile not only toward the Lebanese people in general—who suffered so much during his so-called war of liberation—but also toward that group of the Lebanese that he claims to represent, and through whom he claims to represent Lebanon.

'Awn's insolent behavior surpassed all limits when he ordered his gangs to attack Patriarch Sfayr—a symbol of religious holiness—and to destroy and desecrate the patriarchate. This is exactly what the racist Zionists did when they desecrated, burned, and attempted to destroy the al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem. 'Awn's villainous henchmen were not satisfied with attacking, destroying, and burning the contents of the patriarchal building, but went further by insulting Patriarch Sfayr and forcing him to kiss 'Awn's picture as a punishment for his nationalist stand on the achievement of reconciliation and reforms, the election of a president of the republic, and the end to the war waged by 'Awn against Lebanon and its unity and Arabism. To preserve his life, the patriarch was forced to leave the area that the Zionized general had brought under his control with iron and fire.

In the name of forged legitimacy, 'Awn seized the B'abda Presidential Palace and prevented the convocation of the Chamber of Deputies twice; once to prevent the election of a new president of the country, and again to prevent the election of a new speaker of Parliament. In the name of sovereignty, he waged his so-called war of liberation against Lebanon and its people, attacked the al-Ta'if meeting, and threatened the eastern area's deputies in al-Ta'if. In the name of democracy, he attacked the one legitimate constitutional institution that still exists in Lebanon and attempted to prevent the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies from electing a new president of the republic. In the name of freedom, 'Awn's henchmen demolished the houses of a number of Lebanese deputies in the eastern part [of Beirut] in order to intimidate them and prevent them from exercising their democratic right—exactly as the Zionist occupation authorities are doing to Arab citizens' houses in the occupied territories in order to intimidate them and prevent them from continuing their intifadah against the occupation and its practices.

The Zionized general continues to reject the results of the presidential and parliamentary elections, refusing to acknowledge true legitimacy and defying Lebanese unanimity, Arab approval, and international support. In his current state, 'Awn is behaving like his Zionist masters,

who always take a stand against international opinion and legitimacy and ignore all UN resolutions.

The Lebanese have suffered a great deal and have provided much blood and made many sacrifices in order to begin the journey of reconciliation and reconstruction. Having begun to emerge from the dark tunnel into light, life, and stability, the Lebanese people will not allow a tyrant and an adventurer to prolong the game of death for long, because time is precious and not one minute should be wasted without bringing closer the hour of Lebanon's salvation from 'Awn and his clique who are destroying Lebanon and its people.

Having shattered the illusions of partition and the sick dreams of tyrants, the Lebanese people must also topple the instruments which have sought to fulfil these illusions and dreams, because Lebanon can stand no more fighting and destruction; and those who hatch suicidal schemes must not be allowed to drag any Lebanese along with them into the abyss that they have prepared for Lebanon and its people—with the backing and support of the Israeli enemy and the murderous Baghdad regime.

'Awn was and is a Zionist phenomenon that must be uprooted to guarantee the success of reconciliation and reforms in Lebanon.

In their just and legitimate struggle to continue their journey of reconciliation and liberate their land from the Israeli enemy and its tools, the Lebanese people will find Syria faithful, as always, to its pan-Arab pledges. They will find Syria unquestionably prepared to offer all support and backing to the Lebanese people, their new president, and their national government in their efforts to rescue Lebanon and return it to its nation and allow it to assume its role alongside all its brothers.

Minister Sets Conditions for Lebanese Withdrawal

*JN0711194489 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1900 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] In Paris, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said Syria sets two conditions

for withdrawing its Army from Lebanon. These conditions are: The termination of the civil war, and the withdrawal of the Israeli Army. In an interview with the magazine (FARANSA WA AL-DUWAL AL-'ARABIYAH) in its issue to be published on 15 November, the Syrian minister said that first of all the civil war must be terminated. After that, UN Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon, should be implemented. The Syrian minister added: As long as the Israeli Army remains on Lebanese territory, there will be a threat to Syria's security.

Attempts Made To Remove Estrangement With Egypt

*JN0611190089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
5 Nov 89 p 1*

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that mediation efforts by Algeria and the Yemen Arab Republic to reconcile Egypt and Syria have made considerable progress. Mohamed Adjali, Algerian ambassador in Cairo, stated to AL-ITTIHAD that positive and favorable results concerning the Egyptian-Syrian relations will soon be announced. On his part, Ahmad al-Shajani, Yemeni Ambassador in Cairo, said the outcome of the efforts gives cause for optimism. Arab diplomatic sources expect Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to hold a summit meeting soon. Libyan diplomatic sources in Damascus, meanwhile, hinted that Libya might be a possible venue for the meeting. Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi said in a press interview Friday [3 November] that Arab efforts currently are being made to remove the causes of estrangement between Syria and Egypt.

Cabinet Meets, Reviews Political Developments

*JN0711132889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1215 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] Under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, the Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 this morning. During this meeting, there was a general political review of the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas, and particularly the Lebanese arena. The cabinet also discussed the topics on its agenda and took the appropriate decisions.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Sends Greetings to Soviet Leaders

LD0611220989 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Afghan Council of Ministers, has sent to Moscow messages of congratulation on the 72d anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution addressed to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.

The message says that this anniversary is being celebrated at a time when the depth of glasnost and perestroika has placed the USSR on the threshold of a new period of progress and prosperity. Afghans cordially wish success in the fulfillment of this great act. Perestroika is of great importance not only for the USSR but also the whole human community. In international relations and in the light of new political thinking, the USSR's peace-seeking efforts have created a good atmosphere for increasing peace and confidence, for ending tensions, for disarmament, and for resolving regional disputes. Human society is distancing itself from the dangerous atomic challenge. The voices of those who have been burning in the fire of painful disputes and wars are now calling for peace and calm. The Republic of Afghanistan has done all it can to help normalize the situation in the region by restoring tranquillity in Afghanistan. In this great task we lean on the USSR's active cooperation and solidarity.

The Soviet people have helped the people of Afghanistan in their struggle for the cessation of war, the implementation of national reconciliation and the rehabilitation of the Afghan economy. We believe that with the restoration of peace in our country, the proper atmosphere will be created for expanding friendly relations and peaceful cooperation between the people and governments of our two countries.

Gathering Marks GOSR Anniversary

LD0811074289 *Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT*
8 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 6, BAKHTAR—The 72th anniversary of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR] was marked [words indistinct] function held by the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of Afghanistan (PSFOA) and Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association in the Afghan capital today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that in the function which was held in the hall of the PSFOA, 'Abdul Hamid Mohtat, vice-president, Sarwar Mangal, deputy-prime minister, some ministers, leadership organs and activists of PSFOA, high-ranking state officials, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet

Union in Kabul and a number of ambassadors and diplomatic corps of the friendly countries Kabul, took part. The function was opened with the playing of the national anthems of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA) and the Soviet Union.

Later, Gol Dad, chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association spoke on the gains of the Great October Socialist Revolution during the past seven decades in different spheres of socio-economic, political and cultural life of the Soviet people. Gol Dad, on behalf of the Afghan people, expressed his best congratulations on the occasion to the people of the Soviet Union.

Burhanuddin Ghiasi, minister of commerce and vice-chairman of the Afghan-Soviet Friendship Association delivered a detailed speech on this great event of the 20th century and history of traditional friendship between the people's of the two countries.

At the end of the function B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador of the Soviet Union in Kabul in his speech in the gathering while expressing gratitude of the Soviet people from the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan for the auspicious marking of the 72 anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution has considered the October Revolution as [words indistinct] victory of the workers of the Soviet Union as well as workers the world over.

Soviet Envoy Hosts Banquet

LD0811074389 *Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT*
8 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 7, BAKHTAR—On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution [GOSR], a banquet was organised by B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Soviet Union in the Soviet Embassy in Kabul on Nov. 6, 1989.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that high-ranking state and party officials of the Republic of Afghanistan and some members of the diplomatic corps stationed in Kabul, took part in the reception.

Najibullah Meets With UN Officials 6 Nov

LD0811071289 *Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT*
8 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 6, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] received in Kabul today Ross Montan [name as received], chairman of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), Salman 'Abd-'Ali [name as received], head of the UNESCO and Mohammad Omer [name as received] caretaker of the UNICEF in Gol Khanah Presidential Palace.

During the meeting, Ross Montan, spoke on the international conference on education due to be held next March in Thailand and presented the UN letter of invitation to President Najibullah.

It is planned that a regional conference in connection to the preparation for the Thailand conference will be held in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh on ministerial level.

While expressing his gratefulness on the invitation of the Afghan delegations to Thailand and Dhaka conferences, the Afghan leader appreciated the sincere activities of the foreign and Afghan personnel working in the UN offices in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The president added that under [words indistinct] conditions of our country, the people and state of the RA regard the assistance and activities of the UN offices and projects as important support and moral value.

Najibullah Attends Senator's Mourning Ceremony

LD0811074789 *Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 8 Nov 89*

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 6, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, participated today in the mourning ceremony of late Haji Kandahari [name as received] a senator of Paktia Province, [word indistinct] the Senate and an influential person in that province, held in Eidgah congregational mosque.

Attended the mourning ceremony were Mohammad Rafi and 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, deputy-presidents, Dr Khalil Ahmad 'Abawi, speaker of the House of Representatives, Dr Mahmud (Habbi), speaker of Senate, some Politburo members of the PDPA [Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Central Committee, some ministers, generals and other state high-ranking employees and his relatives.

AFP: Second General Killed Within Week

BK0711155989 *Hong Kong AFP in English 1532 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] Kabul, Nov 7 (AFP)—A high-profile Afghan general died of wounds he received in fighting with mujahidin guerrillas in southern Qandahar Province, the second general to die in a week, the government said here Tuesday.

Earlier resistance reports had said Lieutenant General 'Ali Akbar, one of the government's most highly decorated soldiers, had died in a rocket attack in southeastern Qandahar Province.

A government spokesman denied the report and said Lt. Gen. Akbar had been wounded leading an infantry operation, and had died of his wounds in Qandahar hospital. The body was flown to Kabul and buried with full military honors Sunday.

Earlier this week the government said another general, who was not named, was killed in an "accident" when the aircraft in which he was travelling, a Soviet-made Antonov-12, crash landed at Jalalabad airport. Kabul denied resistance reports that the Antonov was shot down as it approached the eastern city, and said the plane hit a tree.

At least three Afghan generals died earlier this year when the mujahidin laid siege to Jalalabad in the hope of overrunning the town in the uncertainty following the February 15 Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

'Main Highways' Open; Goods Reach Kabul

LD0711184389 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] Despite vain attempts by extremist groups and their international backers, the main highways have been kept open to traffic, and primary goods for our compatriots are being transported by the state and private sector to Kabul city and other cities of the country.

According to a report from the BIA military section, 323 trucks carrying food, fuel, and other necessary goods arrived in Kabul city yesterday and today via the Salang highway as a result of activity by the Armed Forces which shattered the bands of extremist groups and prevented their plundering along the Kabul-Hayratan highway. As a result of the indefatigable efforts by our Armed Forces, the arrival of primary goods is continuing in a normal manner.

Mujahidin Leaders Meets, Review 'Holy War'

BK0711160989 *Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Nov 89*

[Text] At a meeting yesterday, religious scholars, mujahidin commanders, heads of local departments of Afghan Islamic organizations, and tribal chieftains held an in-depth exchange of views on matters regarding the holy war in Afghanistan. They emphasized the need to strengthen the Afghan interim government. The prime minister of the Afghan interim government, Professor 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, addressed the meeting and appealed to the commanders to expand the scope of their coordinated activities against the common enemy and promote mutual assistance.

According to a report from the Afghan interim government news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN], the mujahidin have been in full control of the Salang highway from the north Salang tunnel to Dowshi District since the beginning of last month, and they allow only civil transport to use the highway. The report describes as misleading the Kabul regime's claim made last week that its convoy carrying goods reached Kabul via the highway. The mujahidin attacked Kabul regime troops at (Baghawar) between Dowshi and (Sinjan) killing many of them and cutting off a gas pipeline between the two towns. The highway between the two towns is now totally blocked.

According to another report, the mujahidin in a successful operation on the highway between Jalalabad and Sarowbi killed 5 militiamen and injured more than 20 others. According to reports, fierce fighting is now taking place between the mujahidin and Kabul regime troops at (Panjiseraj), (Chandarun) and (Qilla Gaye).

'Extremist' Group Members Captured in Helmand

BK0611104489 Kabul in English to South Asia
0900 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Faiz Muhammad, known as Haji Muhammad, a ring leader of Rabbani extremist group, along with his six men were captured when the organs of the State Security Ministry carried out mopping up operations and laid a set of ambushes in areas related to (Deshoi) District of Helmand Province. The BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY says that a large number of enemy men were suppressed and one rocket launcher, one Kalashnikov machinegun, 115 boxes of cartridges of assorted weapons, and five weapon-loaded vehicles were captured by the government forces.

Armed Forces Fire 2 Scud Missiles at Rebel Bases

BK0611152789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1523 GMT
6 Nov 89

[Text] Kabul, Nov 6 (AFP)—Government forces Monday launched two more Scud rockets at suspected mujahidin bases in the country's east where the resistance is reported to have blown up a major ammunition dump, informed sources said.

The gunners fired the two rockets simultaneously towards eastern Nangahar Province as a part of a continuing government effort to fend off mujahidin attacks against Jalalabad and other strategic towns.

(Reports from Islamabad have said that the mujahidin last week blew up a vital government ammunition dump at Samar Kheyl, the military garrison outside Jalalabad, effectively silencing the government artillery at Samar Kheyl.)

There was no immediate confirmation of the report, but the sources said Monday's firing of the liquid-fueled Scuds came a day after a single Scud was also launched from Kabul to the east on Sunday. The Soviet-supplied Scuds carry a one and a half tonne warhead and have a range of some 300 kilometers (187 miles.)

In a separate development, a government spokesman said troops had purchased at least two U.S.-made missiles from mujahidin commanders in neighboring Parwan Province. The spokesman identified the two as a cluster-bomb rocket, which sprays 98 bomblets on detonation, and an anti-aircraft missile. He refused to say what price the government had paid for the weapons or the names of the sellers, but said government policy forbade using the purchased weapons against resistance camps.

President Najibullah in a decree issued three years ago legitimized the official purchase of resistance weapons as a part of his peace plans. The mujahidin have so far rejected Mr. Najibullah's peace plans, calling for his resignation before any dialogue on ending the war can begin.

India

Penalty Imposed on Daily Over Bofors Dispute

BK0711164089 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] THE INDIAN EXPRESS and its chairman and managing director, Mr Ramnath Goenka, have been found guilty of serious violations of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act [FERA]. The enforcement directorate, in its order today, imposed the penalty of of 18 lakh rupees on THE INDIAN EXPRESS, its managing director, and two other associates. The adjudicating authority held that the violations of FERA were committed with the full consent, connivance, and active participation of Mr Goenka.

Court Rules on Disputed Hindu-Muslim Shrine Issue

BK0711162189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] A special bench of Allahabad High Court today ruled that the piece of land which the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [a Hindu fundamentalist organization] has barricaded for laying the foundation of a Ram temple in Ayodhya on the 9th of this month is a land of dispute. It has ruled that the status quo of the disputed land should be maintained and parties should not alter or modify the status or condition of properties in question.

The bench consisting of acting Chief Justice K.C. Agarwal, Mr Justice U.C. Shrivastava, and Mr Justice S.H.A. Raza in the order said that the land of the dispute meant that the entire property mentioned in the suit including the piece of land in so far as it is within the boundary described in the site plan.

Hindu, Muslim 'Showdown' Near

BK0811080889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0714 GMT
8 Nov 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Ayodhya, India, Nov 8 (AFP)—Hindus and Muslims appear headed for a bloody showdown over a disputed religious site here where Hindu militants have vowed to begin building a temple Thursday [9 November].

Hindu leaders rejected late Tuesday a court decision delivered hours earlier which effectively banned their building plan by ordering that the status quo be maintained at the 16th century site claimed by both Hindus and Muslim.

The rejection sparked fears of violent clashes in this northern Indian temple town. The simmering dispute has already led to dozens of communal flareups across India and set the country's communal passions soaring

on a scale unseen since the Hindu-Muslim carnage which accompanied the sub-continent's independence and partition in 1947.

More than 5,000 police and paramilitary personnel have been deployed here and further reinforcements were reported to be on their way as militants from the two communities continued to flex their muscles.

The controversial site, which the Hindus say is the birthplace of their Lord Rama and the Muslims a historic mosque, has been fenced off with barbed wire save a narrow entry and ringed by armed policemen. But fundamentalists, both Hindu and Muslim, remained adamant. "I am not prepared to accept the verdict of a court over a religious matter," declared Paramhans Ramachandra Das, 78, a Hindu saint who has been campaigning for the construction of a temple at the disputed site since 1949.

"No matter what, our programme will continue," he added, referring to well-publicised plans by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP, or World Hindu Council) to build a temple for Lord Rama beginning Thursday.

Muslims pledged resistance. "We shall resist it," said Mohammad Yunus Siddiqui, chairman of a Muslim group set up to preserve the mosque at the disputed site said to have been built by Emperor Babar during India's early Islamic era. He said Muslims would offer "peaceful resistance" Thursday, but added that young members of the community, India's largest religious minority numbering about 100 million, were itching for a fight.

The chief government administrator here admitted that the situation in Ayodhya, located on the banks of the Saryu River, was emotionally charged. "Things are getting tense," said R.S. Srivastava, district magistrate of Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh state. "We are keeping our fingers crossed." Assistant Superintendent of Police B.M. Singh said: "Nothing can be ruled out. We are prepared for everything."

Mr. Srivastava told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that more than 40 companies of paramilitary forces—some 5,000 men—including the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force had been moved into Ayodhya. Prohibitory orders have also been clamped in the town barring the assembly of four or more people. But the administration's problem has been compounded by India's two communist parties, which have announced a several thousand-strong rally at Faizabad city, six kilometres (3.6 miles) from here, on Thursday to oppose the VHP building plans.

Similar programmes have been announced by Vishwanath Pratap Singh, India's best-known opposition leader, and Kamalapati Tripathi, a dissident leader in Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party.

The Congress (I), which administers Uttar Pradesh, has itself taken no clear-cut stand on the dispute and both Hindus and Muslims blame it for letting the situation drift to dangerous levels.

Thursday also happens to be a Hindu religious holiday when some 500,000 people are expected to converge here from all over India and throng the town's numerous temples.

Mr. Srivastava said thousands of consecrated bricks inscribed with the words "sri (holy) ram" had already reached Ayodhya, but would not be allowed to be taken to the controversial site because of Tuesday's court order.

The Allahabad High Court, the highest judicial body in Uttar Pradesh, ruled that no one should alter or modify the status or condition of the weathered structure.

But another Hindu saint claimed that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad would not tolerate any hindrance. "Nothing can stop us," said Ram Vilas Vedanti, a VHP member. "If the government stops us we shall get ourselves arrested in thousands." He admitted that the dispute had political overtones since "whoever backs us will get the Hindu vote" in national parliamentary elections on November 22, 24th and 26th.

The Ayodhya dispute has been simmering since February 1986 when a local court ruled in response to Hindu petitions that the gates to the sanctum be unlocked and the shrine be thrown open to Hindu devotees.

The ruling angered Muslims, who threatened a "holy war" if a Hindu temple was constructed on the site of the shrine, which had been locked in 1949 when the controversy first flared.

Sides To Comply With Court Order

BK0811091689 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, reviewed the overall law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh in the wake of the proposed foundation laying ceremony of Ram [Hindu god] temple in Ayodhya tomorrow. The chief minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari; the state home minister, Mrs Sheila Rohatagi; the DIG [Deputy Inspector General] of police; and the state home secretary were also present in the meeting.

Later, Mr Buta Singh told newsmen that the representatives of the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad—World Hindu Council] who met him today have agreed to comply with yesterday's High Court order [stating that the status quo of the disputed shrine site claimed by both Hindu and Muslim communities be maintained]. Talking to newsmen in Lucknow, the convenor of the Babri Masjid [Muslim mosque] action committee, Syed Shahabuddin, said that the action committee will abide by the court verdict over the disputed land in Ayodhya.

In Uttar Pradesh, the district administration at Faizabad has made adequate arrangements to maintain law and order in Ayodhya. Tight security arrangements have been made at the disputed Ram Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid site. Senior officials are camping in Faizabad and keeping a strict vigil over the situation. The authorities

said that no rallies, marches, meetings, or processions will be allowed. Prohibitory orders have been promulgated in the twin cities. However, the situation in Faizabad and Ayodhya is normal.

IPKF Contingent Arrives From Sri Lanka 7 Nov

BK0711144189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Another contingent of the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] from Sri Lanka arrived in Madras today. A warm welcome was given to the contingent by the senior officers of the Army, Navy, and Port Trust.

20 Policemen Injured in Grenade Attack in Kashmir

BK0711162589 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 20 police members were injured when a hand grenade was hurled at a police vehicle in Maisooma area of Srinagar this evening. One of the injured is stated to be in a serious condition. In another blast in Lal Mandi area of the city, a vehicle was partly damaged. No one was injured in the incident.

Incidents of Violence in Bihar Towns Updated

BK0711161189 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] In Bihar, the situation in Sasaram town is reported to be tense but under control. According to the district magistrate Rohtas, curfew will continue till 0900 tomorrow morning as a precautionary measure.

Official sources said that six persons have been killed and 49 injured in different cases of looting and arson in Sasaram during the last 24 hours. The Army has been called out to assist the district administration to maintain law and order.

AIR [All India Radio] Patna correspondent, N.Z. Ahmed, reports that the Army staged a flag march in the town today. During combing operations, a large quantity of explosives was seized. About 60 persons have been arrested so far.

An official spokesman said in Patna that regarding some [word indistinct] incident in Bhagalpur District, the officer in charge of police has been suspended. Eighty-one persons have been arrested in this connection. The matter has been enquired and stern action will be taken against those found guilty. The CID [Criminal Investigation Department] has been asked to investigate the cases expeditiously. The spokesman said that in Bhagalpur District, the death toll is 207 and 216 injured. Eight hundred and seventy-eight persons have been arrested so far in connection with rioting and arson. The government is running 22 relief camps to provide relief to the victims. Peace committees have been constituted up to panchayat [local bodies] level to instill confidence in the people and restore peace.

Meanwhile, the state government has decided to constitute a judicial commission of inquiry into the Bhagalpur riots.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the administration has been instructed to be very tough in dealing with the situation in the violence-hit district of Bihar. Talking to newsmen in Cooch Behar today, Mr Gandhi said he is getting conflicting reports about the situation there and has asked the administration to check it and let him know.

Iran

Agreement To Restore Ties With U.S. Expected

JN0711190289 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
6 Nov 89 pp 1, 20

[By Husayn Salamah]

[Text] Informed diplomatic sources have been expecting the United States and Iran to reach an agreement to restore diplomatic relations in the first half of 1990. These sources told AL-SIYASAH that the American-Soviet dispute over Iran has reached a decisive point and that Pakistan, Japan, Italy, and Algeria are playing an important role in the continuing efforts to improve American-Iranian relations. The sources added that the United States is making every effort to bring Iran back into the American sphere of influence in light of its important strategic position on the border of conflict between the two superpowers. The sources noted the good relations between the USSR and Iran and expressed the conviction that the progress made by Washington and Iran toward improving their relations have tipped the balance in favor of the United States in the game of influence in this country—a country that extends to the Soviet border and which has experienced a long period of political chaos in the wake of the Iranian revolution of 1979.

The same sources noted the good relations in American-Iranian contacts and referred to the message U.S. President George Bush sent to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani in which he took advantage of the Iranian campaign against drug dealers in Iran. The sources added that the message contains an American proposal to offer financial aid to support Iran in its war against drugs. The sources also referred to a meeting between U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on 25 September in connection with the ordinary session of the UN General Assembly. The sources said that a serious and deep discussion of the question of restoring and improving American-Iranian diplomatic relations took place during this meeting.

The informed sources added that contacts made so far within the continuing mediation effort have resulted in an agreement between Tehran and Washington on a number of basic points, the most important of which are the following:

1. Iran has agreed in principle to restore relations with America and pledged to stop its support for extremist fundamentalist organizations inside and outside Iran, particularly the support given to Hizballah inside and outside Lebanon. Iran also pledged to halt the media campaign against Zionism and Israel in the wake of the revolution.

2. Washington promised to free Iranian assets frozen in American banks withheld since the outbreak of the Iranian revolution and the holding of the American hostages in Washington's embassy in Tehran. Washington pledged to honor the military deals signed between the two countries during the shah's reign, estimated at approximately \$11 billion.

The sources said that there is a prominent Japanese role in the mediation between Tehran and Washington. The Japanese Mitsubishi Corporation recently supplied Iran with large and significant quantities of spare parts needed by Iran to repair its military hardware and to reorganize and reinforce its Armed Forces. The sources noted with caution remarks on the continuation of American-Soviet detente. The sources said that Moscow has begun to worry very much about American policy, particularly in the Middle East where the Soviet policy has become very weak.

The sources hinted that the Soviets are now carefully discussing Washington's exploitation of the policy of detente, arising out of Gorbachev's perestroika, in foreign policy.

The sources believe that the United States is putting political and economic pressure on the USSR, particularly in the Gulf area where Moscow is trying to improve relations so it can benefit from the Gulf countries in building up its economy and fostering development, which it needs badly in order to improve and increase production and develop its technological capabilities. The sources noted the great progress made by Washington with regard to the Middle East. Washington was able to prevent any European or Soviet participation in the American-Israeli plans for a solution in the Middle East. The sources stated that Washington is now working unilaterally to arrange matters in the Middle East in accordance with the American-Israeli interests.

Velayati-Baker Meeting Denied

LD0711150389 Tehran IRNA in English 1453 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today categorically refuted claims of the Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH on an alleged meeting between the Iranian foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state.

The daily in its Monday issue alleged that 'Ali Akbar Velayati had met James Baker during the 44th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on 25 September, to discuss resumption of Tehran-Washington relations.

Majlis Deputy Speaker Discounts Ties With U.S.

NC0711114389 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
2 Nov 89 pp 1, 4

[Report by Irfan Parviz]

[Text] Tehran—A senior Majlis member said yesterday that Iran's doors are open for all countries in the world with the exception of three states including the United States which have adopted hostile attitudes against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Deputy Speaker of the Majlis, or the Parliament, Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said that "Iran welcomes relations with other countries on the basis of mutual interests and respect."

Bayat said beside the United States, Iran will never have diplomatic relations with Israel which he said is an illegitimate regime and should be eradicated from the very heart of Islamic lands.

Another country which Bayat believes that Iran would not have diplomatic relations with is South Africa which is antihuman and must be condemned by all.

On the U.S. the deputy speaker of the Majlis said, "The U.S. had adopted hostile, brutal and inhuman attitudes against Iran before and even after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution."

Bayat, 48, said, "We had and we will have a tit-for-tat policy as far as the U.S. is concerned."

"We have proved this to be our policy and recently we have seen that the Majlis passed a bill in retaliation of the U.S. move on terrorism," he said.

Bayat was referring to a draft law passed by the Majlis on Tuesday that would give the Islamic Republic of Iran the right to arrest U.S. nationals who took action against its citizen or property and take them to Iran for trial.

The deputies who introduced the bill said it was a response to a similar measure recently approved by the U.S. Congress.

"You see how prompt the legislative body was in countering the U.S. hostility and this policy will continue," Bayat said, adding that the Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khamene'i and Judiciary Head Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi also supported the Majlis move.

Referring to Iran's relations with the West he said, "We welcome these relations with the sole condition that those governments should respect the principles of the Islamic Revolution.

You see that Iran's relations with France are improving. We have had some ups and downs with West Germany but all now are becoming better," he said referring to high-level contacts of West German and French officials

with Iran. These contacts were disrupted after the European Community passed a ruling early this year which barred similar contacts with Iran for its members.

When asked about ties with Britain, Bayat said, "Well, we do not have any problems with Britain and you saw the diplomatic relations were resumed but were severed in February this year."

"Even today if Britain corrects its policy and acts according to the ruling of the Majlis diplomatic relations can be resumed," Bayat said. Irano-British relations became rocky on the issue of the Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie which insulted the Islamic sanctities and hurt the feelings of Moslems.

After a lengthy debate in the Majlis, a ruling was passed on February 26 in which Britain was asked to act against the blasphemous book or that the Islamic Republic will sever diplomatic relations. "Still there is time for Britain to condemn the serpent (Rushdie) of global arrogance and respect the Islamic sanctities," he said and noted, "there is no problem and we can have diplomatic relations with that country."

Bayat hails from Zanjan, western Iran and studied Islam first in Zanjan and then in Qom for 23 years. He was also a student of Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic late Imam Khomeyni.

He was commenting on Iranian ties with the West in answer to a question that Iran needs advanced technology for its Five-Year Plan. How far can Iran go towards the West for its goods?

Bayat said, "Our doors are open for all countries except three countries and we welcome bilateral relations with all the Western countries.

"In fact we already have had good relations with the developed countries such as Japan and West Germany," he said.

"You see the Soviet Union has changed its policy so now we are enjoying cordial relations with Moscow," he said and pointed out that the same can be true for the others.

On the Five-Year Plan he said that the fact that the plan was launched itself indicated and proves that the Islamic system is firm here in Iran and we can plan and implement what is to be done in the coming five years.

He said the plan is being considered by the Majlis commission and it is at the stage of second reading. He hoped that the plan will be submitted to the Majlis before October 21 for full-scale discussions.

In an answer to a question he said, "You know no plan is free from difficulties so is this plan."

'But,' he said 'with reliance upon God we will succeed.'

The problems with the plan can be foreseen since it will be implemented after an eight-year war and because of the Security Council Resolution 598 still to be implemented.

"We should also remember that the U.S. is still hostile against the Islamic Republic of Iran at a time when we rely for 70 percent of our hard currency on oil revenues," he said and added that a total of \$112 billion will be needed for the plan during the coming five years.

"But we are not worried and if extensive efforts are made to boost the exports of non-oil goods all problems can be solved," he said.

Bayat said that handicrafts and other small scale industries need due attention of the authorities. He said the Iranian carpets, fruits and so many other items of non-oil goods can find an easy market abroad to earn foreign exchange.

He said that efforts should be made for the smooth flow of industrial productive activities in the country for which supply of raw materials should relieve the active attention of officials.

"I'm sure even in heavy industry we can find foreign markets as I have seen the high quality of our industrial products during the 13th International Trade Fair which was held in September this year in Tehran," Bayat said.

Wearing a smile on his face Bayat responded to an unexpected question saying, "I do not know what others call me... a hardliner or moderate. But I do have my opinions on the issues of economy and politics."

"In politics I firmly believe that the neither East nor West policy should be followed strictly, certain values in politics must be respected such as that the apartheid regime should be denounced as it is against humanity."

"In the same way," he said, "in economic issues I believe that public sector and cooperative societies should be given their due share."

As far as private sector is concerned he said, "I'm not against it but individuals should not be given preference to the society or in other words the interest of the entire society should be given priority over the interest of an individual.

"This is what the Imam used to believe and what the Holy Prophet (S) [peace be upon him] believed," Bayat said, adding that "If I'm a hardliner then the Imam and the Holy Prophet (S) were also hardliners."

"Isn't it?" Bayat said fielding the question with a last counter-question and a broad smile on his face.

Daily Urges Continuing Anti-U.S. Campaign

LD0511111289 Tehran IRNA in English 1024 GMT
5 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 5, IRNA—Iranians once again displayed their wrath against the U.S. crimes and vowed to stand firmly against the U.S. hegemony in massive demonstrations held yesterday marking the 10th anniversary of the U.S. Embassy takeover by the Muslim students following the imam's path.

The morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in an editorial Sunday said that the main reason for people's hatred towards the criminal U.S. is that the U.S. is directly responsible for oppression of Iranian nation under the rule of the deposed shah.

Massive turn out in yesterday's demonstrations proves that the campaign against the U.S. is not limited to a certain group, rather it is one shared by people from all walks of life, it added.

November 4th ceremonies was of special meaning this year because it was first held after the demise of the late Imam Khomeyni, the daily wrote.

It added that the U.S. was hoping to see a drastic change in Iran after the imam's demise, expecting things to move in its benefit thus paving the way for shift of the revolution towards the West, the U.S. in particular.

However, recent developments and Saturday's massive demonstrations proved that people maintained their wrath against the U.S. and that the officials called on people to firmly stand against the U.S., JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

The editorial noted that the tribute paid to the late Imam Khomeyni by leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Khamene'i on Saturday was of a special significance—the leader will continue imam's path and will consider campaign against U.S. hegemony an unchangeable principle of the revolution.

The Islamic Republic will continue to foil Washington's satanic plots, the daily said adding that busting the U.S.-led espionage networks was an indication of the overall campaign against U.S. interference in affairs of other countries.

The paper concluded by saying that in post-imam era, Washington did not expect to face such an opposition from the Iranian leader, nation, government, Majlis and the Judiciary, all of whom chant the slogan "Death to the U.S."

Confessed Spy Warns Against Contact With U.S.

*LD0711232189 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1632 GMT 6 Nov 89*

[Text] I am Mas'ud Didehvar, an employee of Abadan refinery. I was educated as an oil refinery engineer. Concerning my initial contract with the Americans, I must say that toward the end of 1365 [year corresponding to March 1985 to March 1986] I went to the U.S. Embassy in Germany [as heard] to obtain a visa. After I handed in my documents, I went to the counter, where someone interviewed me. After several questions he asked me to wait a while. Then he took me to a room where there was a lady who later introduced herself as Sara. That lady asked me a few questions, such as why I wanted to go to the United States. Then she asked whether she could see me in the United States as she was going there in the following week. Then she came to the United States and telephoned me to ask to see me.

When we saw each other, that lady with all kinds of sweet mannerisms, including introducing me to two people who introduced themselves as businessmen, who I later found out were CIA employees. [sentence as heard] Those businessmen pretended they wanted sales representatives in Iran to market their goods. However, it became clear later that they were CIA employees. Then, on another day, that lady brought along a gentleman who taught me how to write letters that are visible on one side and invisible on the other. On the visible side, routine things were written, things that one usually writes to a friend. The other side was invisible.

After she obtained some photographs and signatures from me, Sara asked me to send her some information. For a period of 1 year, I did send her some information. As far as using that information is concerned, I believe that both the U.S. and its allies in the region used that information against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is something that I found out later. As to why I wrote those letters, given the fact that the U.S. is our enemy, I must say that after a while the Americans begin threatening and frightening me. By such means they force one to write to them.

The Americans, in their espionage agencies, seek all sorts of information. They strive to obtain information from various sources on political, economic, and other fields. Therefore, one must be very vigilant in one's meetings with the Americans, as they use all means and tricks for their aims.

As far as their behavior is concerned, I must say that at the beginning they treat one well, pretending to be one's friend. However, after a while, especially after getting one's signature and similar things, their behavior changes; they become insulting.

I hereby wish to direct the attention of all people to this issue: Americans never come forward and speak of their concerns directly; instead, by all sorts of tricks and plans, they corner people. By the time one realizes that one is trapped, it is usually too late. Then using fear and threats, they start asking people for information. Therefore, people must be very vigilant in their encounters with Americans, particularly in light of the fact that all U.S. Embassies the world over are espionage centers. Under diplomatic guises, they are trying to deceive people and trap them to use and manipulate them. People must be very alert. They should know that all American leaders are scheming against our revolution, and have taken a position against the Islamic Republic of Iran. All their efforts and endeavors are aimed at dealing some kind of a blow to the Islamic Republic. One of their means for that purpose is to act through people. People must be totally alert in their contacts and encounters with Americans.

'CIA Spy' Comments Further on Activities

NC0811110289 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1713 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Statement by Mahmud Zarif-Yeganeh, identified as a "CIA spy"; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. I am Mahmud Zarif-Yeganeh. My nom de guerre is Daryush and I am a former employee of the Urban Housing Department of Khorasan. I have been cooperating with the SAVAK since 1949 for a period of 15 years. In addition, I was a correspondent for two newspapers of the former regime. At the beginning of 1986, one of my friends contacted me and said: Let us go to Turkey and purchase some crystal and bring it here to sell. We will make a considerable profit.

While we spent a few days in Turkey, he introduced me to an Iranian who was a U.S. contact. He gave my biography to the Americans. When they heard about my work, they asked me cooperate with the Americans in news reporting. Following this meeting, I was given \$1,000 for travel expenses and for my stay in Turkey. It was decided that every month they would pay me \$500 and this sum would be paid into an account of their choice. However, in the 2 years of my cooperation, this money remained with them and I did not receive one cent.

In this meeting, the Americans made me sign a bond of cooperation with them. This letter was later used as a threat to make me continue my cooperation with them. After a few months, I visited Germany, Japan, and Singapore many times. During these trips, I was taught to write letters in invisible ink and decode radio messages—of course under the supervision of the Americans. During the training I received in map reading I was told that I was supposed to obtain some land for them. They said I should buy some land on their behalf where there was a poultry farm and which was out of sight of the security and law enforcement forces of the Islamic Republic.

I bought some land, which was used for the landing of paratroopers in times of emergency. I made all the preparations and sent the maps to them. In addition, the Americans asked me to find individuals interested in cooperating with them and to enlist their help and cooperation.

These are the highlights of the duties that the Americans taught me to do. Salutations and blessings of God be upon you.

68th Volume of U.S. Embassy Papers Published

LD0811114789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] The 68th volume in the series of books on the documents of the U.S. den of spies has been published in a collection entitled: "The (?Illusions) of Overthrowing." The documents that have been published in this book are

all about the nature of the links of U.S. spies in Iran with the den of spies and with U.S. contacts.

Tehran Combatant Clergymen Issue Statement 4 Nov

NC0611125489 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
29 Oct 89 p 2

[Text of statement issued by the Tehran Combatant Clergymen on the occasion of the 4 November anniversary of the occupation of the American Embassy in Tehran]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Iran is marking the 10th anniversary of the occupation of the American den of spies by the Muslim students following the imam's line. Iran considers this event as marking a turning point in its struggles against arrogance and a proof to the world, once again, that it continues to stand steadfast, with great love and affection, in its allegiance to the leader of religion and of grandeur, Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified. It also shows that Iran's revolution is continuing and that the essence of its independence lies in its struggle against America.

Even though our dear imam of the ummah is not among us today, nevertheless pious people can hear his loud cry that "We witnessed our slogan of death to America in the act of the zealous, heroic, and Muslim youths with the occupation of the American den of corruption and espionage." And the slogan of "Death to America," which is a sign of the continuation of the revolution and the grandeur of pure Mohammadan Islam, will be extended throughout the world by the able children of the Islamic revolution and will rob the sleep from the eyes of America, of other arrogant powers, and of their vile minions.

The occupation of the den of spies, which was correctly named "the second revolution" and was decisively supported by the imam until his death, inflicted the biggest blow on America's false prestige and disgraced this conceited and suppressing superpower.

This revolutionary movement culminated in the nation's further awareness of the dangerous threats facing the newly-formed Islamic revolution, and the movement thwarted the treacherous efforts by the compromisers who were trying—by dampening the revolutionary zeal of the people and announcing the end of the era of the revolution after the monarchy was overthrown—to open the way for America's return to Iran and to distract the Islamic revolution from its path. And those who falsely pretended to be struggling against imperialism and who had veiled their treachery and plots with misleading slogans, were disgraced so that there would be no doubt in anyone's mind so far as these elements' opposition to Islam and the people was concerned.

The documents found in the den of spies bared the ugly face of the liars and conservatives and showed how much hope America and arrogance had attached to masked spies or to the weak pro-West and opportunist elements

in order to infiltrate the ranks of the revolutionary nation, and even in the higher ranks of leadership, in a bid to annihilate or to distract the revolution.

In the same way that this revolutionary movement disgraced America and enraged the arrogant, it also increased the nation's revolutionary alertness and its determination to defend the revolution and the slogans of Islam. It elevated the credibility of the Islamic revolution among the Muslim nations and revolutionary forces of the world. Following in the footsteps of the Islamic Republic of Iran, revolutionary Muslims and liberation-seekers intensified their anti-arrogant and anti-American acts. The world revolution of Islam, therefore, displayed its bright and everlasting essence in open confrontation between pure Mohammadan Islam on the one side, and world arrogance and American-style Islam on the other.

Marking 4 November as the day which has been named by respectable officials as "the national day for the struggle against world arrogance" is not only a ceremony marking a great incident that occurred in the past, but is also a manifestation of the great Iranian nation's steadfastness in the divine and anti-arrogant slogans of the late Imam. It also displays the people's firm determination to continue the struggle against America as the most outstanding example of blasphemy. The great and valuable experience gained by the Islamic revolution and the brave resistance of the noble Iranian nation showed that America is the biggest enemy of independence and liberation of nations and that it does not refrain from any crime in order to achieve its satanic ends. It was our brave resistance that tore the false masks of defense for human rights and international norms from the ugly face of America and showed the world that this superpower is the origin of state terrorism and the one who tramples on the sovereignty of nations and who ignores all international norms and humanitarian principles. Now that the great satan has been further disgraced and is the target of the rage of liberation seekers, it has cast the mask of treachery aside and has come to the scene like a raging bull in a bid to terrify revolutionaries and liberation-seeking nations of the world. It has reached such a point that it tramples on the most elementary humanitarian principles and international norms and on the sovereignty of nations. It orders its agents to overtly crush those who oppose its policies and aggressions in every corner of the world, and to place these opponents of America into the hands of American executioners. There is no doubt that this dangerous game, which speaks of America's true weakness, will once again witness the defeat of this hegemonistic power because the revolutionaries and the liberation strugglers will be given the right, by world public opinion, to display their revolutionary rage against the bullying American criminals everywhere in the world, and especially on American territory.

The great imam left this world when the Islamic revolution became a powerful and continuing reality and when it adds to the alertness and the struggles of all the world.

The Islamic revolution has gone boldly beyond the borders of Iran and is defending, with determination and growing joy, Islamic dignity and the respect of millions of the imam's revolutionary children. Iran will, rightfully, continue to remain the ebullient source of this world revolution and this noble nation will continue to be alert, thanks to the lesson of steadfastness that it was taught by its imam. It will never lose the honor of having been the forerunner of this destiny-making movement and it will continue on the bright path of its late imam and great leader in its pitiless struggle against America, blasphemy, and arrogance; and it will proudly fulfill its mission.

The backbone of our revolution is the revolutionary spirit of all Muslims and liberation-seekers of the world and this spirit will undoubtedly strengthen with our resistance and with the continuation of the struggle against America.

Dear Palestine will be liberated with the revolutionary zeal of its Muslim men and women and despite the daily increasing efforts by the treacherous reactionaries to crush the Islamic movement in occupied Palestine to the benefit of the occupiers and America. Our insistence on principles and principled slogans is what is granting the Muslim Palestinians their hope to continue.

Our nonreconcilable stand toward America will herald the final victory of the Islamic movement in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Egypt, Morocco, Iraq, Jordan, and other Islamic countries, and it will liberate the holy Ka'bah, which is the source of the Islamic ummah's pride, from the domination of America.

It is our nation's resistance and the preservation of our revolutionary rage against America that will show that the path of "the great Khomeyni" did not end with his death. This year, 4 November should be marked more zealously than in the past so that the last rays of hope in the enemy's heart will be destroyed.

America and the other arrogant powers should know that Imam Khomeyni's thoughts and his revolutionary slogans will continue to shine in the sky of the great Iranian nation like a bright sun. After a decade of resistance and the offering of tens of thousands of martyrs, wounded, POW's, and MIA's, and after suffering unbearable pressure from America and other arrogant powers and their minions, we will not be the ones to return to the beginning and accept America's bullying tactics. It is the world of arrogance that should seriously accept the reality of the Islamic revolution.

Thanks to the unprecedented leadership of our late imam, our ummah has been assigned the mission of being the forerunner of a spectacular movement which should alter the unfavorable situation mankind faces today. It is the continuation of our struggle that will force the arrogant to live in a world where the Islamic revolution is the powerful forerunner in the struggle against oppression and hegemonism.

The crisis that has embraced the East and the West is a sign of the strength of our revolution and marks the end of the era of arbitrary hegemony by the arrogant over the destiny of mankind. In this sensitive moment, our nation and the revolutionaries of the world will never submit to the atmosphere that the terrified enemy has created by fomenting a comprehensive psychological war against the Islamic revolution to save themselves from the crisis that they have plunged into. Our refusal to reconcile our views with the disgraceful intentions of America, which is the ugliest manifestation of lawlessness, will force history to judge decisively that our resistance and faith are the strongest backbones of the global Islamic revolution and, with God's help, the balance in international relations will tip to the benefit of the Muslims and the oppressed.

The Society of the Combatant Clergymen of Tehran offers its respects to the brave act of the dear Muslim students in occupying the American den of spies—an act which was defended by the imam, may his soul be sanctified, and which was a source of pride for the followers of the imam's line and a disgrace for the enemies of the revolution. This brave act calls on the entire Iranian nation to attend ceremonies marking this holy event, and by shouting the great slogans of the imam of the ummah, may his soul rest in peace, to renew their allegiance and please the pure souls of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution. May God's peace and benedictions be upon you.

[Signed] The Society of the Combatant Clergymen of Tehran

Naqqash Case No Impediment to Ties With France

LD2710163189 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT 27 Oct 89

[Text] Paris, Oct. 27, IRNA—Iran and France have reached agreement on how to resolve Tehran-Paris disputes, but the procedure has not yet been worked out, said the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-America [affairs] Mahmud Va'ezī at a press conference here Thursday.

Va'ezī who wound up a three-day visit to Paris and left for Rome Friday morning, was here to follow up the talks held in Tehran last month with French Foreign Ministry Director General Francois Scheer on resolving Tehran-Paris financial disputes.

"In talks with Scheer both sides put forward their proposals on the dispute," Va'ezī told reporters adding, "The outcome of the Paris talks will be reviewed in the next round of negotiations to be held in Tehran next month."

Va'ezī added that the two governments are inclined to settle the matter, an attitude which he said has made the talks progress.

Va'ezī declined to disclose the sum that France has accepted to pay for its overdue debts of dlr\$ one billion

to Iran. "The two countries prefer to resolve their financial disputes far from any propaganda," he told reporters.

As for the Lebanese prisoner in France Anis Naqqash, he said the case was not raised in talks adding that it was not an impediment in improving the bilateral relations. However, he said that his release would be a positive step as France has earlier promised to pardon him.

Naqqash and four others are imprisoned here after attempting on the life of the last prime minister of the former regime of Iran, Shapur Bakhtiari in Paris in 1980 in which a French policeman and a neighbour of Bakhtiari were killed.

France promised to release him if Iran played a mediatory role in the release of the French hostages in Lebanon.

"France has a moral obligation to accomplish his promise in this regard, but the failure has no effect on bilateral ties," Va'ezī emphasized.

He said that no member of the Iranian diplomatic mission in Paris has met with Naqqash in Frenses Prison's hospital where he is continuing his two-month long hunger strike demanding transfer of the four others involved in the case to his cell.

He suggested that Naqqash end his strike soon and said, "Naqqash's demand, however, is neither an exceptional one nor impossible to meet."

On the Al-Ta'if decisions on Lebanon, he said they are not acceptable to Iran as they do not resolve the Lebanese problems.

On whether Iran is ready to withdraw the Islamic Revolutionary Guards from Lebanon, the Foreign Ministry official reiterated the Islamic Republic's stand that all foreign forces should leave Lebanon as soon as a legitimate and independent government is formed in the country.

Asked to comment on expulsion of several female Muslim students from French schools because of wearing Islamic hijab, he said, "This is an internal issue for France and religious issues should not be given political overtone."

Daily Urges OPEC To Set Aside 'Political Views'

LD0711092189 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7 IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Tuesday urged OPEC members to avoid imposing their political views on their economic considerations. The paper's editorial dealt with the impending meeting of oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to be held in Geneva on November 25 and that of the Arab Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (AOPEC) in Geneva on November 23.

"All (OPEC) member countries must then do their utmost to make sure that the November meet will be a totally economic, non-political one," stressed the daily. The editorial stressed coordination between OPEC and AOPEC members describing it "a must". It said that OPEC should take advantage of the leverages it has to defend the price of \$18 per barrel.

"The OPEC should seriously consider arrangements for regular meetings with other oil producers so that a unified and coherent strategy can be worked out," it said. It also suggested frequent meetings between OPEC and AOPEC members for "converging the views of the two factions of OPEC".

PGCC Team 'Wrong' on Arvand River Border Issue

LD0711145489 Tehran IRNA in English 1440 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—A Foreign Ministry spokesman today described as "wrong and irresponsible" a stand taken by the six-member Persian Gulf Cooperation Council—(P)GCC—on the Iran-Iraq international border.

'Changing an internationally accepted border which is registered as pervalid accords is something impractical and wishful,' he said.

The (P)GCC information ministers issued a statement at the end of their meeting in Muscat Monday, giving Iraq what they called a 'historical right' and 'sovereignty' over the Arvand River, the centre of which forms the southernmost boundary between the two countries.

If the reports are right as the media claims, said the spokesman, then it was abject surrender to Iraqi pressure.

'Through such absurd stands, the Iraqi regime intends to achieve what it failed to get from its war against the Islamic Republic of Iran,' he added.

The spokesman advised prudence to Arab states across the Persian Gulf, and warned them of Ba'thist Baghdad's expansionist aims.

Iraqi ambitions, he said, are not confined to Islamic Iran alone, and if encouraged, 'all Persian Gulf Arab states will eventually end up in the Iraqi trap.'

He made it clear that Iran will defend by all possible means its land and sea border lines as well as its sovereignty over the eastern half of the Arvand River.

Envoy to Kuwait on Unlimited Cooperation

NC0711122089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
1 Nov 89 pp 1, 5

[Irfan Parviz report]

[Text] Tehran—An Iranian diplomat yesterday said that 'sky is the limit' if all the regional countries join their

hands, and put the combined efforts for the improvement of the lot of the common people.

Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said, "We have all, but lack only common strategy in political, economic and cultural fields".

"If we set and reach a common goal then we need no outside assistance and can easily march forward on the road of peace, security and prosperity," Sadeqi who was visiting home these days said.

The Persian Gulf is a sensitive and strategic part of the region and the eyes of the entire world are here, he said, adding that we have oil, gas and a number of other natural resources which are enough for over-all development for benefit of the peoples.

"The foreign powers are helpless and can do nothing against us if we all in the regional countries are united," Sadeqi said.

"There are a number of platforms which offer avenues for closer cooperation among ourselves," the ambassador said and pointed out that "we the regional countries are the members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Non-Aligned Movement and the United Nations."

"If we have closer cooperation and coordination in these world organizations we would be able to serve our peoples in the best way," Sadeqi said.

Sadeqi singled out the example of the Iran-Iraq war and said, "All the regional countries admit this war created problems in the region."

He said that now the war has stopped at the fronts but talks for a comprehensive peace are still continuing.

"In the same way, all of us know that the Iraqi regime is creating hurdles in the way of durable peace so if a united effort is made and the Iraqi regime is pressurized then talks may go ahead and the idea of a comprehensive peace can be achieved.

"We can have a common stand in the way of achieving peace in the region," he said.

"We all know that the Persian Gulf belongs to the peoples of this region and we should sit on [as published] the table and talk ourselves to sort out the mutual issues without allowing foreign force or forces interfere into our internal affairs. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Sadeqi last month took over the Iranian Embassy as an ambassador first time since 1984 when Tehran called back its ambassador from Kuwait because the sheikdom supported the Iraqi regime in its war against Iran.

The Tehran and Kuwait relations started to improve when the ceasefire was declared by Iran and Iraq on August 20, 1988.

When asked how he sees the present trends of the Irano-Kuwait relations Sadeqi said, "You know that since the culmination of the Islamic revolution the hostile media of the West has presented a wrong picture of the Islamic Republic of Iran which had poisoned the minds of the authorities in the Persian Gulf."

"As far as Kuwait is concerned we have a long history of political, cultural and religious relations with this country and the peoples of both Iran and Kuwait have a historical understanding."

"What we need is the reconstruction of these relations and I'm optimistic that the future of the relations of the two countries is bright," Sadeqi said.

"We should try our best that the misunderstanding created by the common enemies should be removed," Sadeqi said.

"I had talks with the Kuwaiti officials and I'm sure certain specific steps will be taken to bring the peoples of the two countries nearer," the envoy said.

"What we need is confidence among ourselves and then there is no hurdle remaining in the way," Sadeqi said.

In an answer to a question Sadeqi said that Kuwait will introduce its ambassador soon. Kuwait called back its ambassador from Tehran in 1979 and since then the mission of that country is headed by charge d'affaires.

He said that economics and trade are the avenues through which both countries can have enormous cooperation and it will [be] in the interests of both countries.

In an answer to another question Sadeqi said that "the press in Kuwait is free and I noticed it."

"I do not expect that press in Kuwait, to be a propaganda tool for our country but I do expect that the media of that country instead of using distorted foreign stories on Iran would use the correct sources so that a real picture of Iran may be presented in the media," Sadeqi said.

Daily Urges Iraqi Cooperation With Eliasson

NC0711110289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
1 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Iraq Should Awaken Regional Situation"]

[Text] Tehran and Baghdad are now awaiting a one-week tour of the region by the U.N. chief's special envoy Jan Eliasson hopefully to bring about a breaking point in the stalled peace talks between the two capitals.

Now concurrent with the spread of the news on the resumption of dialog between Iraq and Iran, a piece of news of doubtful origin made the media rounds over an alleged attack by two Iranian gunboats on an Iraqi commercial vessel.

At a time when both Iraq and Iran, as well as all those concerned about the region, should make all possible

efforts to create a political climate contributing to confidence and understanding, such a baseless and poisonous propaganda blitz can only unleash uncertainty and doom to the outcome of the negotiations even before they get off the ground.

Tehran, however, rightfully lays claim to being more sincere and diligent in its peace drive than its eight-year warring rival Iraq. Iran has always given its full cooperation to the United Nations to get the talks out of bedlam and on to saner ground. But these honest efforts have not succeeded and the negotiations have remained on the rocks mainly because of Iraq's intransigence and irrational diversions from topics under discussion at various stages and again recently.

It should be recalled that while Iran announced its full agreement with Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's proposal in Belgrade during the recent Non-Aligned Movement conference, it was again Iraq that rejected them out of hand.

Almost all crisis points in the region and the world at large are undergoing peaceful transitions and the globe seems to be on its course towards politico-military detente. Now is it not indeed surprising that international circles and the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council in particular have displayed no serious commitment to get the Baghdad-Tehran peace talks down the pipe fast? It is in the absence of such seriousness at the world level that the United Nations Resolution 598 has been left hanging the air.

The Security Council, in its last session, has gone only as far as expressing dissatisfaction over the non-progress of the talks. This is never enough. What can prove a linchpin in getting the talks down the proper channel will be initiatives on the part of the Security Council to bolster the U.N. chief's plan with sufficient effective executive guarantee. This can be done through establishing a mechanism to tighten the screws on Baghdad to make them bow to the decisions of the world body.

By and large however the preservation of the status quo, i.e., what can be best termed "an armed peace" is only in the interests of our enemies.

The reason lies in the fact that the existence of a potential for confrontation in the Persian Gulf can always be mischievously exploited to the detriment of both nations as well as the whole region.

How can the two countries plan their politico-economic strategy out of the geopolitical considerations keeping them in a straitjacket of no-war, no-peace?

Opening its eyes to the realities of the region, Baghdad should move fast to rescue from the depths the peace talks. Now that Eliasson is here, all Baghdad needs to do is to cooperate with the U.N. chief's envoy to get the Resolution 598 off the ground and enjoy its benefits.

Paper on West's 'Crocodile Tears' Over KurdsLD0711115189 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Tuesday editorialized on conferences held recently in support of the lost rights and identity of the Kurdish minority and the abuse of human rights. "Now that hardly any traces of this Kurdish minority are available, barely any clues to this courageous tribe left behind, what are these world organisations groping for?" asked the daily. The editorial was referring to a recent conference in Paris sponsored by the French human rights group France-Libertes, the U.S. Congress discussion of the issue and a scheduled international confab in Stockholm.

"What are they trying to achieve through such lamentations," questioned the daily adding that the "crocodile tears are being shed meaninglessly." "Now that Iraq sees no danger from the Kurds, the world seems to have recovered its senses and has brought the Kurdish issue to an international level," said the daily criticizing silence of the international bodies over the Iraqi genocide of 5,900 Kurds in chemical bombardment of Halabjah and later on the exodus of Kurds towards Iran and Turkey.

The paper concluded by saying that superpowers motivated by their interests, have all of a sudden felt it is necessary to mourn the atrocities committed against the Kurdish people and remind them of their identity, cultural heritage and rights.

Editorial Welcomes Election of Turkey's OzalNC0711105289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
2 Nov 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Ozal Election Welcome in Tehran"]

[Text] Turgut Ozal has been elected the eighth Turkish president in a controversial parliamentary vote amidst a boycott of the elections by the opposition.

The vote, however, has placed the 62-year-old Ozal, a veteran of the conservative line, who has served in the post of premier since 1983, in the land's chief executive chair for seven years. The opposition parties had managed to block the presidential elections in the parliament by two consecutive rounds of boycotting the voting sessions.

The elections pushed through in the third round only because, according to the Turkish Constitution, the voting did not have to depend on the two-thirds of the votes for majority. Ozal won 267 votes that he needed to have the straight majority out of the 450-member parliament.

The Irano-Turkish relations have seen one of their coldest stages over the past six months in the last decade. It is almost four months that Tehran is not represented

in Ankara at the ambassadorial level. The two governments however have always stressed their interest in expanding their relations.

The main deterrent factor responsible for the non-development of the ties to the expected extent has to be perhaps found in the policies of the military clique at the helm in Ankara. Headed by General Kenan Evren, the incumbent president who has given up his seat to Ozal, the wing spearheaded the secular approach to all matters of government, an approach that alienates Islamic Iran.

As such Ozal's election could, as it did, draw only a welcome reaction from the political circles in Tehran.

Over the recent years and among the top Turkish officials, Ozal has been the main political weight behind the idea of expansion of ties with the Islamic Republic.

At present, however, when Turkey is about to enter the European Economic Community, the country needs, more than any other time, a rapid economic growth rate. Considerations along this line of economic priority then necessitates for the Turkish leaders to bat for the expansion of ties with a potential economic tiger in the region, Iran, away from all ideological differences.

Besides, in terms of its own national security too Turkey will have to have cordial relations with Iran. Given problems Turkey has with its other neighbors, Bulgaria, Greece, and Syria, no wise politician can opt for any crisis with Iran as well.

The leaders in Tehran seem to welcome Ozal's victory counting on the fact that the new president is well aware of both these parameters, i.e. economic relations and national security.

Official Views Power Plant Accord With USSRPM0611101489 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
28 Sep 89 p 18

[Unattributed report on interview with engineer Mohammad Malaki, deputy minister of energy in charge of electricity; date, place not given]

[Text] An agreement to expand the power plants of Ramin at Ahvaz and Martyr Mohammad Montazeri in Esfahan will be signed with the Soviet Union within the next 2 months. With the modernization of several power plants throughout the country, 1.17 gigawatts will be added to the country's capacity. The fourth stage of the Martyr Mohammad Montazeri power plant, with an output of 200 megawatts, will start work next week.

This was announced by engineer Mohammad Malaki, deputy minister of energy in charge of electricity and manager of the Tavanir electricity company, in an exclusive interview with KEYHAN.

He started the interview by mentioning the protocol signed between Iran and the Soviet Union with regard to the building and the expansion of power plants. He said: After the protocol was signed two delegations from the

Ministry of Energy went to the Soviet Union, and at the moment, there are several Soviet experts in Iran examining the issue. The final agreement for the Ramin power plant at Ahvaz and the Martyr Mohammad Montazeri power plant at Esfahan, with a total output of 1.44 gigawatts, will be signed between Iran and the Soviet Union within the next 2 months.

According to this agreement the expansion of the Ramin and Martyr Montazeri plants will take place within the next 4 years. Also covered in the protocol there is a plan to build two new power plants with an output of some 2 gigawatts. We are at the moment reviewing possible locations for them. Perhaps the final agreement for these will come at the end of next year.

With regard to the reconstruction of power plants damaged during the war, the head of the Tavanir company said: Fortunately, most of the plants have been repaired since the cease-fire. The complete construction work on the Neka and the Ramin plants will finish by the end of this year. With this work done, some 700 megawatts will be added to the country's capacity for energy production. The gas unit at the Neka plant, with an output capacity of 270 megawatts, will come into production by the end of this year.

The deputy minister of energy then commented on possible increases in electricity prices and the cost of installations in private homes and said: According to a bill passed by the Majlis, we have to offer electricity at a price that reflects the cost of its production. At the same time, however, according to a decree passed by the Expediency Discernment Council, general prices and government services have to be kept down. Therefore, it is possible that the charges for electricity will remain stable until the end of this year. As far as installations are concerned, prices vary according to location throughout the country. We are trying to strike a balance in this regard.

He added: The production price of every kilowatt hour of domestic electricity is more than 7 rials, while more than 85 percent of the people pay less than 3.5 rials. The same sort of situation exists in the agricultural, industrial, and trading sectors.

The manager of the Tavanir electricity company continued the interview by saying that the production and consumption of electricity is about equal at the moment, standing somewhere between 7.2 and 7.5 gigawatts. He added: Bearing in mind that we have provided much of the fuel needed for the power plants, and unless we experience fuel problems this winter, there is a strong possibility that we will have no power cuts until the end of this year. The consumption of electricity will rise to 9 gigawatts next summer. On the basis of our existing projects, unless we experience water shortages in our dams, the situation for electricity will be the same as it was this summer, or even better, and we will have fewer power cuts.

Engineer Malaki said that an increase of 1.17 gigawatts by the end of this year was one of the Ministry of Energy's plans that is expected to yield quick results. He added: The next group of plants will come into production starting in 1991. We will see an increase of 6 gigawatts by the end of the 5-year plan.

Daily Says Mu'awwad Election No Solution

LD0811101289 Tehran IRNA in English 0718 GMT
8 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 8, IRNA—Developments in Lebanon over the past years prove that hardship and sufferings of the country's people are the products of Maronite rule, said the morning daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial Wednesday.

Tragic events and bloody civil war in war-torn Lebanon during the past 14 years prove that reformism is not the solution as long as domination of the Maronites exists, and as long as they work to establish a system of their own desire, said the article.

The crisis will continue to haunt Lebanon unless people of the country rise to put an end to sectarian rule and Maronite control over the country's key institutions, it added.

Illegal appointment of Michel 'Awn as prime minister was the biggest blunder of the Maronites—violating the colonial constitution, the law that had legalized their rule.

The Maronites made the biggest mistake by appointing 'Awn, a move which make it impossible for them to return to the constitution, said the Persian daily. "The Maronites destroyed all the bridges behind them and, therefore, it was necessary to formulate a new framework for the restoration and revival of the Maronite rule and sectarian system," it said.

This mission, it continued, was delegated to the al-Ta'if conference. "The al-Ta'if conference by restoring the 'political Maronite' committed the greatest treason against people of Lebanon."

The plotters in al-Ta'if took into account everything but the people of Lebanon and this is the main weakness of the conference. The oppressors and their agents underestimated the power and will of the Islamic and nationalist forces in Lebanon," it added.

The paper said in conclusion, "the problem of Lebanon was not the absence of a president to be sorted out through election of Rene Mu'awwad, the problem is the unbearable domination of Maronites and corrupt and decadent system of sectarianism."

Paper Cited on Lack of Reform in Al-Ta'if Accord

LD0711184689 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—The Lebanese parliamentarians should honestly accept they have not taken

any moves towards radical political reforms in that country, a Persian daily said Tuesday.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI was referring in its editorial to the outcome of the al-Ta'if meet and election of Rene Mu'awwad as the new Lebanese president.

They should accept they cannot deceive the people who have offered their lives for defending their Islamic and human reputation, the daily said adding that the al-Ta'if meet was a deception and naturally any decisions on the basis of its approvals would be nothing more than deception.

JOMHURI added that it was futile to imagine that the Lebanese people will confirm Mu'awwad's election only because of the al-Ta'if meet. It said the Islamic resistance would stand against domination-seeking policies of political Maronite in that country.

The editorial warned that as long as the main roots of discrimination and oppression against the Lebanese people was in place, one could not be hopeful of any cease-fire and stability of peace. Discussing the roots of the Lebanese crisis, it said the Lebanese Constitution was prepared, drawn up and imposed by French colonialism, which gives glaring privileges to the Maronite minority and intentionally ignores the rights of Muslim majority.

This is the main cause of instability, civil war and political disturbances in that country, it said.

Turning to the support of countries like France, the U.S. and the Zionist regime for the al-Ta'if meet and its outcomes, the editorial said the Lebanese parliament from the very beginning lacked the necessary ability and power to bring serious and infrastructural changes in the Lebanese Constitution.

Spokesman Deplores Ethiopian Ties With Israel

LD0411234289 Tehran IRNA in English 1613 GMT
4 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry today said Iran deplores Ethiopia's decision to resume relations with the Zionist regime.

"We believe the Al Qods occupying regime has no legitimacy," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman, noting the policies adopted by the Zionist regime are based on expansionism, and aggression against other nations' rights. "The threats resulting from such policies affect all regional countries," he warned.

The spokesman reminded that the Al Qods occupying regime is a strategic ally of the apartheid regime and that it plays a key role in conspiracies against independent governments. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran does not recognize the sovereignty of the Zionist regime and considers the recognition of that regime as being against the legitimate interests of the nations and governments of the region.

President Visits Grand Ayatollah in Hospital

LD0711125189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning visited Grand Ayatollah Mar'ashi-Najafi in the Khatam ol-Anbiya' Hospital, and was informed during this visit about the patient's treatment. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited several war wounded in the hospital.

Khomeyni's Son Visits Ayatollah

LD0611114789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni visited Grand Ayatollah Mar'ashi-Najafi in one of Tehran's hospitals today.

President's Message to Seminar on Deprived

LD0611093189 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT
6 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 6, IRNA—President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today urged officials to adhere to the basic principle of the Islamic revolution—defending the rights of the mostazafan (oppressed) who he said are the pioneers of the revolution.

In his inaugural message to a three-day seminar titled "The Deprived And Ways To Overcome Deprivation", the president expressed the hope that the gathering will find the root cause of deprivation in the Islamic society.

He expressed regret that the poverty-stricken in the society were hit by economic problems and urged the participants those from the welfare organisation in particular, to present practical solutions to the problem.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message was read by his cultural advisor Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Eje'i.

Some 12 social and economic affairs experts as well as a number of other officials will make proposals to the seminar on ways to overcome shortcomings and deprivation in the society.

Navy Commander on Need for Self-Sufficiency

LD0711130589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Rear Admiral [daryadar] Shamkhani, naval commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking at today's parade ceremony of personnel of the Nowshahr University naval sciences complex, emphasized the need for self-sufficiency in the Navy. He said: In our Navy there are a lot of talented personnel, and these potential talents should be recognized, trained, and utilized so as to increase the quality of this force.

Military Exercises Staged in Bakhtaran 4 Nov

LD0511135689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] On the occasion of 4 November, the sixth large-scale exercises of the 18th Bakhtaran Armored Division, since the acceptance of Resolution 598, were staged in the presence of Brigadier General Hasani-Sa'di, the Ground Forces commander, and commanders of divisions and brigades stationed in the west of the country.

According to an IRNA report, infantry, mechanized, tank and support units, demonstrated their battle strength in the exercises.

Drugs Seized, Smugglers Arrested in Esfahan Area

LD0711120789 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 7, IRNA—More than 450 kgs of opium and heroin were seized by the Gendarmerie forces during the past Iranian month (September 23-October 22) and 84 smugglers were arrested in Esfahan and eastern parts of the country.

The drugs hauled included 90 kgs of heroin, 358 kgs of opium and 38 kgs of hashish. The drug traffickers have been handed over to judicial officials.

Nuri Introduces New Kordestan Governor-General

LD0611120389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 6 Nov 89

[Text] Interior Minister Nuri arrived in Sanandaj this morning. He introduced Mr Hamid Haj 'Abdol-Vahhab to the Kordestan Province officials as the new governor general of the province. Mr Nuri also praised the services of the former Kordestan governor general.

KEYHAN Details 22 Oct Majlis Open Session

PM0711152489 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
22 Oct 89 pp 1, 2

[Report on the 22 October open session of the Majlis]

[Excerpts] The open session of the Majlis was held this morning headed by Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi. [passage omitted]

Following several pre-agenda speeches by some of the deputies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, the Majlis speaker, gave a speech on the criminal action of the Zionist regime in connection with the destruction of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the outrage felt by the world's Muslims. He said: The criminal Zionists have been hostile to Muslims throughout history. They recently started to destroy Islam's foremost place of prayer, the al-Aqsa Mosque, which will in effect demolish the mosque. This has unleashed a wave of anger and outrage against them among the world's Muslims.

This is not the first time that they have done this. We have not forgotten the fire that they started there. These actions all show their hatred of Islamic beliefs and holy places.

Muslims must realize that this is a very important issue. They must use all their available resources, including propaganda machinery, to counter and resist those moves. They must show the world their anger and hatred and of course, angry slogans alone will not be enough. They must teach the Zionists a lesson and put them in their place. [passage omitted]

Obviously, reasoning will not defeat the Zionists. What is needed is a constant battle. Muslims must exploit all their resources. All the activities of compromised regimes and of those that are lackies of the criminal United States and all the secret contacts that, unfortunately, some Islamic leaders have with the Zionist regime have given the Zionists the courage to act in such a brazen manner, to injure the feelings of a billion Muslims throughout the world, and to insult Islam's holiest place. [passage omitted]

The first pre-agenda speaker at today's Majlis session was Seyyed Mohammad Hasan 'Alavi, deputy from Gorgan. He commented on Unity Week and the fact that with Unity Week, our people have once again renewed their pledge to their late leader, thereby thwarting the enemy's conspiracies. He said: There is no doubt that every regime needs independence in all fields in order to survive and pursue its own path. Therefore, it will be free from dependence on colonialist countries. In order to achieve this independence, a path must be chosen, and the basis of all forms of independence is economic freedom. We must take steps, therefore, to improve the economy.

Fortunately, one of the very successful programs that has been launched by the president is based on the importance that he has attached to this issue. This independence will not come about without very careful planning in industry and agriculture. We must use these two fields like wings to enable our economy take off. This has been given special priority in the government's 5-year plan. [passage omitted]

The third pre-agenda speaker at today's Majlis session was Karim Shafe'i, deputy from Marand. He welcomed the president's recent trip to Azarbayjan Province and said: I feel it is necessary to give a summary of the situation in this province to the president, the government, and the Majlis.

Today, in this holy place, I announce to you that if something is not done about the province's education, higher education, employment, agricultural and industrial development, and health services, it will not be long before this province—despite its great resources in manpower, land, and water—will become one of the poorest provinces in the country.

Today some 60 percent of the people are illiterate. The local education offices have been neglected. The level of

science and the percentage of students passing their exams have declined seriously. Tabriz University, despite its history, has limited itself to teaching humanities and there is no sign of higher degrees in engineering or medicine. The training of skilled personnel is at its lowest possible level.

Technical colleges and hospitals do not have adequate laboratories and the people are very hard pressed in the area of medicine because of a lack of planning and supervision and shortages of hospitals and clinics. The lack of medical personnel is scandalous. Thousands of villagers have to wait for years for some sort of welfare plan to be implemented and there is no sign of progress.

The provision of water and electricity supplies and other such services to a single village takes many years. Investments are not made promptly and management is unable to attract credit and lacks the authority to manage. There is no coordination and the necessary facilities are not provided for the various projects. Furthermore, there have been no serious projects in any of the towns. Tabriz has become a garbage dump. There are no signs of parks, transport terminals, or any other facility in any of the towns.

While our heavy industries have been concentrated in the Central Province and in Esfahan, there are no signs of primary industries or mechanized agriculture or mining that would increase employment. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, our people expect positive results from your trip to their province in terms of political, social, cultural, and economic changes. They expect improvements in the level of education and employment facilities and they want agriculture to be saved from its present sorry state. They want petrochemical industries, electrical industries, dam building and so forth.

Economic Council's Decision on Food Imports

LD0711180389 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1600 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Yesterday's meeting of the Economic Council debated first the method of implementing a scheme on the purchase of domestic cattle and the purchase of 2 million cattle from the country's tribal people [as heard]. The Economic Council paid tribute to those who devised the plan and who are now in charge of its implementation. The council also stressed again the need to protect the tribal cattle-breeders by ordering a plan be set up for feed supplies for the tribal people's cattle. The scheme is to be presented to the council as soon as possible.

The meeting also stressed the provision of people's basic needs to the required level and at the appropriate time. It was also decided that basic commodities, such as wheat, rice, sugar, vegetable oil, tea, and other commodities, should be imported and distributed in accordance with the devised regulations. Coordination of the timely transport of those commodities within the country was another issue on which the council placed emphasis.

KEYHAN Editorial on Price Increases

PM0711153289 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
30 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Combating High Prices, Steadfastness, or Condescension?"]

[Text] Yesterday, during the Tehran Friday prayers, the president announced the good news about the fight against high prices and those who sell at high prices. The remarks made by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani were welcomed by those present, most of whom were from the poorer classes.

There is something that must be said about high prices and economic wrongdoings in general. The fight against high prices and profiteering capitalists must be in earnest, which unfortunately has not been the case so far; otherwise, the government will not have much success in this struggle.

Our judicial system has not changed its attitude toward punishment for this group during the past few years. If the punishment for an economic terrorist, whose corruption affects a huge sector of society, is less than that for someone smuggling 50g of heroin, then we cannot be hopeful about any plan to fight this phenomenon.

Unfortunately, the treatment of someone accused of improper behavior in society has been far more severe than that accorded to a capitalist from the bazaar or a government official who steals or who has made several dozen or even hundred million rials by selling goods at inflated prices. Therefore, is there any reason for the corrupt to give up their ways, especially as they have made so much money in the past few years?

A while ago we mentioned in one of our interviews with an official that it seemed unbelievable to us that during the past 10 years not one economic terrorist has been hung from the gallows, that the severity of punishment handed out to political terrorists and drug smugglers is not also applied to this group.

Is it not a sign of weakness toward these elements that 10 tons of gold valued at 100 billion rials was found being smuggled out of the country? The same old issues remain in the government's fight against high prices. If there is enough steadfastness, we can be hopeful about its future; otherwise, one more plan will be added to the already long list of plans and programs against high prices that did not work. The net result will be that the profiteers will go a long way before we have even lifted a hand. We hope this will not happen.

Daily on Need To Safeguard Islamic Principles

LD3010113189 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT
30 Oct 89

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 30, IRNA—A morning daily Monday while lauding the all-out campaign of officials to remove economic bottlenecks, warned against

allowing the issue of control over foreign currencies rates to overshadow principles of the Islamic Revolution.

In an editorial JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said that control over foreign exchange rates should be only a step to offset the pressure by those who attempt to damage economic plans of the government.

It however stressed, controlling the rate of the foreign currencies should not be considered as government's ultimate goal in its new economic plan, rather a mover to channel dead capital to economic activities.

The Islamic revolution, the editorial added, has entered its second decade—declared by the officials as the decade for reconstruction of Iran.

The objective is to fuel the wheels of economy and reach a reasonable economic growth, the article commented. But, it stressed that these objectives should not be materialised at the cost of deviating from the revolution's main principles.

The revolution was launched to bring independence, freedom and self-determination for the Iranians under the banner of Islam, wrote the editorial.

"We stood against the tyrant monarchy and overthrew it, established the Islamic Republic... and confronted domestic and foreign enemies, to fulfill the responsibilities that Islam and the revolution have delegated to us," wrote the article.

No doubt, utmost efforts must be exerted in solving economic problems and maintaining social welfare, but this should not become an excuse to ignore revolution's ideals, the paper commented.

"The day that economic slogans overshadow major ideals of the revolution will be, God forbid, the downfall of the values and grandeur of the revolution," the editorial noted.

KEYHAN Urges Adherence to Islamic Principles

PM0711152089 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
2 Oct 89 p 18

[Editorial by Majid Reza'iyani: "Policy Based on Practical Issues or Principles"]

[Excerpts] The use of historical models in analyzing international relations is an old method. Today, however, there are other more complex analysis methods in the complicated arena of foreign policy, on which basis the diplomatic behavior of various political entities is assessed. [passage omitted]

For example, if we look at the historical background of past relations between Iran and the United States, we see that apart from the years of the Islamic revolution, these two nations enjoyed strategic relations of the highest order. Because of developments in the recent revolutionary years, however, U.S. conspiracies have caused these relations to be severed. In addition, there is the fact that past relations were based on the domination of one

nation by another. If relations are to be restored, therefore, there must undoubtedly be changes in one of the two systems in question.

In order to adhere to our principles, it is of the utmost importance to recognize the basic goals and interests of the Islamic regime. Conduct consistent with our principles can only be achieved when political actions are based on principles and at the same time practical—based on the level of power which forms the backbone of foreign policy.

Let us make no mistake. Pragmatism in foreign policy is different from acting on principles. The politician who acts on principles must use the delicate art of diplomacy to put forward the principles of his regime in this foreign policy so that he dictates the conditions and conditions do not control him. [passage omitted]

In view of this, it seems illogical to analyze publicly the details of ideological goals, or our national and Islamic interests, especially in such a complex field as foreign policy and international relations. However, we must praise the respected president's evaluation in this week's Friday prayers. He recognized that thorough exchanges of differing ideas, so long as they do not weaken the regime, are constructive in resolving issues. Therefore, if there is an issue over a specific subject, it must—as much as possible—be aired in an atmosphere of constructive criticism. In this connection, if a position is taken that could weaken the leadership or the regime, it would decrease our unity and our political stability.

Extremism of both right and left is a plague that has existed throughout the history of various regimes. This is something that we must learn as a model for political behavior and action from the late imam's brotherhood charter. This charter was not issued by that beloved man, who is lost to us, as something limited to a specific period in the revolution's history. At all times we need the stability which the brotherhood charter brings about.

We must welcome healthy exchanges of ideas. Our Islamic regime is based on a rich ideology. Apart from that, the past actions and thoughts of the late leader of the revolution remain. Now, his just, righteous, and worthy "child" is taking the leadership of this caravan. It is normal that if there are any mistakes along the way, he will safeguard the principles of the regime. At the same time the regime needs a constructive force to be forever safe from possible dangers.

Pakistan

PRC Embassy Confirms 2 Diplomats 'Disappeared'

BK0811062689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0557 GMT
8 Nov 89

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 8 (AFP)—The Chinese Embassy here confirmed Wednesday [8 November] that two of its diplomats had disappeared and it had asked Pakistani authorities to help find them. The confirmation of

Pakistani press reports, which said the diplomats went missing Saturday, came six days before Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng is to visit Pakistan.

"We have two low-ranking diplomats missing. Now we are asking the Pakistan side for help in finding them," a Chinese Embassy spokesman said. The spokesman did not identify the pair, but Pakistani press reports have named them as Second Secretary Rehman Anwar and Attache Abdul Karim, both Chinese Muslims from the Xinjiang region.

Pakistani Interior Minister Aitzaz Ahsan told reporters that "authorities have been alerted at all the airports and other exit points in case the missing diplomats try to flee the country."

The U.S. Embassy to Islamabad denied persistent rumours that the two Chinese diplomats had taken refuge there.

"I can confirm that the Chinese are not in the U.S. Embassy," said an embassy spokeswoman who refused to comment further.

Other reports have speculated that the two diplomats have already left the country, while the Lahore daily THE NATION asked on the front page of its Wednesday editions if the two Chinese were U.S. Central Intelligence Agency agents.

The incident comes before Mr. Li is to make his first official visit to Pakistan from November 14 to 17.

An official Pakistani communique said Wednesday the visit "underscores the traditional friendship which characterises Pakistan-China relations."

The communique recalled that China was the first foreign country visited by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in February, less than three months after she took office.

Opposition Gives Bhutto Time To Fulfill Promises

BK0711153589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, leader of the Combined Opposition Party in the National Assembly, has said that the opposition will not table any new no-confidence motions against the prime minister in the near future. Addressing a news conference in Karachi today, he said that the opposition has decided to give the prime minister some time so that her government can fulfill the promises it has made to the people. He added that peaceful conditions in Sind are imperative for the stability of the country.

Further Reportage on Visit of Fijian President

Ishaq Khan Hosts Dinner

BK0711120989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that Pakistan is interested in seeing that Muslims are in a position to preserve their religious and cultural identity and to fulfill their obligations as loyal citizens of the country to which they belong. He was speaking at a dinner he hosted in Islamabad last night to honor Fijian President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau. The president pointed out the presence of 50,000 Muslims of South Asian origin in Fiji and expressed his happiness over the valuable contribution they were making along with other races and cultures for the unity and prosperity of the multiracial Fijian society. He commended the services rendered by Fijian troops in Lebanon and the UN Goods Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The president said Pakistan and Fiji share common perceptions about many global and regional issues. He thanked Fiji for supporting Pakistan's principled stand on the Afghanistan problem. He said his visit, though unofficial, has provided an opportunity to explore concrete and practical ways of giving more substance to the existing friendly relations between the two countries by promoting trade, economic, and cultural relations.

Reciprocating, the Fijian president hoped that the current very close bilateral relations between Pakistan and his country will further grow in the future. He expressed thanks for the warm hospitality extended to him during his visit to Pakistan, though it was unofficial.

Meets Benazir Bhutto

BK0711154589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] Fijian President Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad this evening. The prime minister thanked the people and Government of Fiji for sending its officers to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. She expressed the hope that the Fijian authorities will take care of the welfare of the 50,000 Muslims in Fiji.

The Fijian president assured her that all people living in his country are given equal and just treatment and that there is no religious discrimination.

Ministry Denies Use of Rangers in Punjab, Sind

BK0711153089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 7 Nov 89

[Text] An Interior Ministry spokesman has said that the president has not approved any ordinance authorizing the use of Pakistan Rangers for the maintenance of law and order in Punjab and Sind. The spokesman said the report published in a section of the press in this connection is completely baseless and false.

Sri Lanka

More Indian Troops Leave Country for Home 5 Nov

BK0511131389 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Nov 89

[Text] A contingent of the peacekeeping force [PKF] left Trincomalee for home today. A warm send off was given to the contingent by the local citizens. The GOC [General Officer Commanding], Trincomalee division of the PKF, Major General N.K. Kapoor, saw off the contingent at Trincomalee Port.

Prime Minister Leaves for Visit to Iran

BK0811112989 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 8 Nov 89

[Text] Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge left last night on a 4-day official visit to Iran. The 9-member delegation which accompanied him included the minister of trade and shipping, A.R. Mansoor. He will attend the second meeting of Iran-Sri Lanka joint commission for economic and technical cooperation. The first meeting of the commission was held in Sri Lanka last December.

The Iranian Embassy disclosed that this was the first time that a high-powered Sri Lankan team is visiting Iran after the Islamic Revolution. The Sri Lankan delegation will meet Iranian President Rafsanjani and several state senior officials for discussion. The prime minister and his delegation will return to Sri Lanka on the 12th.

Defense Budget 'Slashed' by 2 Billion Rupees

BK0711151789 Colombo SUN in English
1 Nov 89 p 1

[Text] The Provincial Council Ministry is to get a sum of Rs. [rupees] 13.4 billion in this year's budgetary allocation.

This is a part of the Rs. 18.3 billion earmarked for the Ministry of Public Administration and Home Affairs.

The Defence Ministry expenditure has been slashed by Rs. 2 billion over this year's allocations in the Budget for 1990.

The allocation to the Provincial Council's Ministry is the highest compared to all other individual ministries according to the Appropriation Bill for 1990 which will be presented in Parliament next Tuesday, by Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge who is also Finance Minister.

The defence expenditure for 1990 has been slashed by Rs. 2 billion for next year compared to the allocation for 1989 by the on account budget and the budget.

President Premadasa's Janasaviya programme has also been allocated a high sum of Rs. 4.9 billion out of the votes for the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Cooperatives which amount to Rs. 6 billion.

The Provincial Councils Ministry has been allocated a high sum as they are to come into full operation by next year, Finance Ministry sources said.

Among the other high allocations for next year, according to the Appropriation Bill are the Ministry of Finance which has been allocated Rs. 6.6 billion, the Ministry of Transport and Highways Rs. 5.34 billion, the Ministry of Lands Irrigation and Mahaweli Development, Rs. 4.92 billion, and the Ministry of Power and Energy and the Ministry of Health and Women's Affairs Rs. 3.57 billion and Rs. 3.44 billion respectively.

The Ministry of Education, Cultural Affairs and Information has been allocated Rs. 2.23 billion for next year and the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications Rs. 2.21 billion.

The Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Housing and Construction and the Ministry of Plantations have been allocated Rs. 1.7 billion, Rs. 1.2 billion and Rs. 1 billion respectively.

The Ministry of Industries has been allocated Rs. 27 million, the lowest for 1990 while the other ministries which have been allocated low amounts are Ministry of Buddha Sasana [Buddhist Affairs] Rs. 41 million and Ministry of Tourism Rs. 85 million.

Violence Attributed to Indian-Tamil Rivalry

BK0711132989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1211 GMT
7 Nov 89

[Text] Colombo, Nov 7 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne Tuesday blamed India and rival Tamil militant groups for bloody clashes in an eastern region over the weekend which left dozens of people dead.

The dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sunday attacked camps run by the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) leaving 33 dead by official count.

Mr. Wijeratne, who is also junior defence minister, said tigers had attacked the camps to "prove a point" that the pro-Indian EPRLF was raising an illegal army to replace Indian troops who withdrew from Ampara region two weeks ago.

"The tigers over reached themselves. The EPRLF too had jumped the gun and started recruiting people without our knowledge. Both sides are wrong. We have protested to the LTTE," he said.

"This would not have happened if the IPKF (Indian Peace Keeping Force) agreed to work with the Sri Lankan Army before they withdrew from Ampara. It will not happen again," the minister told reporters.

He was speaking a day after a visit to the battle ravaged district.

He admitted that a 4,000-strong illegal Tamil military force sponsored by the EPRLF had replaced the same number of withdrawn Indian troops.

It was the first official admission of the existence of a so-called Tamil national army in the island's northeast which is to be vacated by the IPKF by the end of the year in line with a bilateral agreement.

However, the minister said the 4,000 strong force would be absorbed into the regular police and Army on a voluntary basis, even though it had been formed without official approval.

"We don't want to embarrass anyone," he said, adding that all Tamil groups had been invited to submit the names of cadres to join the security forces.

He said the IPKF was next set to withdraw from neighbouring Batticaloa district and the government had sent a battalion of local troops there to work with them to gradually take over law and order responsibilities.

"The IPKF had said that two armies can't function together. The IPKF should have joined hands with the Sri Lankan Army before moving out of Ampara. If they did, we could have avoided (Sunday's) clashes," he said.

He said the LTTE, which is currently holding peace talks with Colombo, had broken its promise to observe a ceasefire by attacking the EPRLF camps and aggravated the situation in the northeast where minority Tamils are concentrated.

"The train has derailed and we are trying to put them back on the track," the minister said referring to efforts to forge unity among rival Tamil militant groups.

The LTTE men had abducted some 140 cadres of the EPRLF and their fate was still unknown, the minister said, adding the government was trying to negotiate with the tigers for their release.

"If they don't release them, we will have to pursue them which means there will be confrontations and there will be killings," the minister warned.

He said he would also ask the chief minister of the northeastern provincial council, Varadharaja Perumal, how his EPRLF came to have rockets, mortars and sophisticated weaponry in the two camps.

"I don't think there was any need for them to have mortars and RPG's (rocket propelled grenades). Even some of the Sri Lankan security force camps don't have them," he said.

Tamil sources and local residents placed the death toll around 75 and said most of the bodies were removed in tractor trailers.

The minister said despite the violence he was still hopeful the last Indian soldiers would leave the island by the end of the year in line with the September 18 understanding between Colombo and New Delhi.

He said some 900 local troops were rushed to Ampara district to prevent fresh fighting between rival militants. Earlier, the Sri Lankan forces had a purely ceremonial presence in the area with the IPKF taking over their functions.

2 Policemen Dead; Subversive Activity Reported

BK0711094589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0837 GMT 7 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 7 Nov (LANKAPUATH)—Two policemen along with their families were shot and stabbed to death by subversives yesterday.

A government communique issued today states that at Kirindiwela, Western Province, a Police Constable Sunil Wijesinghe and police driver W.G. Gunadasa along with seven members of their families were shot and stabbed to death by subversives.

In Colombo, unidentified persons abducted 2/Lt [Second Lieutenant] K. Wijesiriwardena of 04 SLSR [expansion unknown] with his pistol. During a cordon and search operation, security forces arrested 15 suspected subversives and handed them over to the Narahenpita police for questioning.

At Gampaha, security forces raided a subversive safe house at Welgasa and recovered shotguns, cartridges, and miscellaneous items.

At Kegalle in the Sabaragamuwa Province, security forces arrested two suspected subversives and recovered shotguns and 300 identity cards. An unidentified armed gang robbed cash, gems, and jewellery valued at Rupees 465,950 from the house of R.M. Abeyratne at Marapana and another armed gang dressed in uniforms similar to that of the army robbed clothing and cash worth Rupees 25,000 from the Janasalu centre at Ratnapura.

In the Southern Province at Matara during a cordon and search operation, security forces arrested five subversive suspects, and recovered 12-bore single barrel shotguns, 12-bore double barrel shotguns, 16-bore single barrel shotguns, revolvers, galkattas [country-made pistols], cartridges, several rounds of ammunition, explosives, locally-made grenades and Claymore mines. Two persons surrendered to the security forces the communique said. At Badulla in the Uva Province, an unidentified armed gang shot and killed W.D.S. Samarawickrema, a teacher attached to the Muslim junior school, Paragolla and at Moneragala armed gangs robbed cash and ticket books from SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] buses at Nagala, Batugammana, Mariarawa and Aswala.

In the Central Province at Kandy, an unidentified armed gang set fire to the documents of the Kubukkadura and Mawinna sub-post offices while at Matale two subversives gave themselves up to the Yatawatta police. At Nuwara Eliya, thirty eight suspected subversives were

arrested by the security forces at Maussawatta while the Agrapatana sub-post office was set on fire by subversives.

In the North Central Province's Anuradhapura area of Tiruppane, five subversives surrendered to the security forces. At Polonnaruwa, subversives set fire to the documents of the Atharagallewa and Kiroya sub-post offices and in the same area a group of subversives fired at a security forces vehicle injuring a soldier.

At Jaffna in the Northern Province, an IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] mobile patrol was fired at by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants between Nawakkuli and Kanthady. At Ampara in the Eastern Province, a LTTE supporter, A.B.M. Hassen was shot and killed by the ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front], states the government communique.

Communique Notes Killing Of 10 'Subversives'

BK0811101389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0927 GMT 8 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Ten subversives were killed and a large number of arms and several rounds of ammunition were recovered by security forces during a cordon and search operation in the eastern province district of Trincomalee.

A government communique issued today states that among the arms recovered were one Chinese LMG [Light Machine Gun], two T-56 rifles and M-14 grenades. The government communique further states that at Anuradhapura in the north central province, a security forces patrol was ambushed by armed militants. Security forces had retaliated and the militants had escaped to the jungle. One security forces officer and four soldiers are reported missing. At Aluthoya in the North Central Province, subversives set fire to a train damaging the engine and three passenger compartments. One compartment was completely damaged. No casualties.

In the North Western Province district of Kurunegala, a police mobile patrol was attacked by subversives with bombs. Officer-in-charge of the Giribawa police station was injured. During a subsequent search in the area, police recovered M-14 grenades, 12 volt batteries and wire rolls. At Amparai in the Eastern Province, Selvarajah Sridharan was shot dead by unidentified persons. Suspected to be an EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] act. Adam Mohamed and S. Suvendran were shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Batticaloa. [It is] suspected to be an ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] act. At Eheliyagoda in the Sabaragamuwa Province, security forces conducting a cordon and search operation recovered shotguns, 12-bore shotguns, Galkattas [country-made pistols], cycle chains and swords from a subversive hideout, the government communique states.

Communique Notes Security Search, Detentions

BK0811112289 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
1101 GMT 8 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 8 Nov (LANKAPUVATH)—Three hundred persons were apprehended during a search operation conducted by security forces in Badulla, states a government communique issued today.

It further states that seven of those apprehended have been detained for further questioning.

The communique states that at Bandarawela security forces shot dead a subversive, who tried to escape from custody.

It also states that nine subversive suspects were arrested by the security forces in Nuwara Eliya.

Subversives set fire to the tire stores at the SLTB [Sri Lanka Transport Board] Kandy north depot in Kandy. Damage is estimated at 800,000 rupees.

In Anuradhapura, subversives set fire to the Thambuttegama railway station. Damage is estimated at 100,000 rupees. Subversives also set fire to the Yakalla Wegodawewa sub-post office.

At Henegama in the Southern Province district of Matara, security forces conducting cordon and search operations recovered gun powder, police uniforms, a Hilman car used by Ajith, a JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] organizer and tins of paint from a subversive safe-house.

Six youths were abducted by unidentified persons at Hagala in the Sabaragamuwa Province's Ratnapura District, the communique states.

Firefight Kills 11 Tamil 'Terrorists,' 1 Soldier

BK0811095089 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0915 GMT 8 Nov 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Nov 8 (LANKAPUVATH)—Eleven Tamil terrorists and one Sri Lankan soldier were killed in a firefight last night at the Wilpattu National Park in the island's Puttalam District, about 180 km northwest of Colombo.

Security sources told LANKAPUVATH that an army patrol had encountered a gang of about 32 terrorists as they were robbing the fittings of the wildlife department's circuit bungalow at Kalarilla in the Wilpattu National Park. The terrorists were loading the rafts, doors, windows and other fittings into a tractor when they were detected by the army patrol comprising an officer and eight soldiers. In the ensuing firefight 11 Tamil terrorists and one Sri Lankan soldier were killed. The rest of the army patrol returned to their camps this morning.